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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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FOR FAILING TO LOOK FOR JOBS

130 taken off food stamp list

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A total of 130 individuals have been temporarily taken off the food stamp list of recipients within a two-month period, some for not even trying to find a job or showing up for a job interview as required, according to CNMI Labor secretary-nominee Edith DeLeon Guerrero yesterday after a Senate committee public hearing on her appointment.

DeLeon Guerrero is also asking the Nutrition Assistance Program to extend from the current 30 days to six months the period wherein non-compliant food stamp recipients are temporarily taken off the list to help reduce dependence on the program and help promote self-sufficiency.

"That is such a relaxed policy," De-

» **Up to 6-month suspension pushed**
» **Senate panel poised to recommend Labor secretary-nominee's confirmation**

Leon Guerrero said, referring to the one-month temporary off-list policy. "There's no way that we're going to wear them off the system if we have a revolving door policy."

As of yesterday, NAP has yet to decide on DeLeon Guerrero's request to extend

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MEMORIAL FACELIFT

Flags of the United States and other countries flutter in the wind in a spruced up Armed Forces Memorial by the Beach Road-Microl intersection in San Jose yesterday. On this spot more than 69 years ago, on June 15, 1944, when the U.S. Armed Forces invaded Saipan, the 6th Marines encountered stiff resistance and suffered heavy losses. This memorial honors those who gave their lives in the service of their country. An island beautification project led by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, along with donation from P&A Corp. and other entities, led to the ongoing war memorial's major facelift.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Micronesian leaders wary of Compact impact decisions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Micronesian governors expressed concern not only about the current level of U.S. funding to offset the impacts of migration of an estimated 56,000 citizens

from Freely Associated States to islands such as Guam, the CNMI, and Hawaii, but also responses to related issues, based on a copy of the 19th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit joint communiqué released yesterday.

» **Report says some 56,000 FAS citizens in US jurisdictions**

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CPUC: New LEAC rate is reasonable, necessary

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will see a slight drop in their power bill following the formal approval yesterday of a new LEAC rate that is projected to save residential customers some \$6.46 a month.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission ordered the enforcement

» **CUC execs: Agency's receivables at \$18.5M**

power bill. It is basically used for fuel purchases. The other is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

A separate proposal to increase

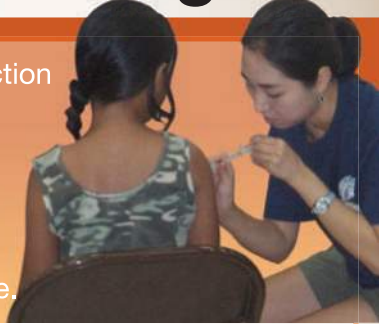
of a new LEAC rate effective Jan. 1, 2014.

LEAC stands for levelized energy adjustment clause and is one of the two components of a

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DPH Immunization Program

- Hepatitis B virus attacks the liver and infection may develop into serious liver problems.
- Hepatitis B is the common cause of chronic liver disease in the CNMI.
- Chronic liver disease is marked by the gradual destruction of liver tissue over time.



The CNMI Division of Public Health and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, are conducting a

Hepatitis B Serosurvey

among first grade children to see if they are protected against hepatitis B.



The survey will be performed on school campuses and will consist of a **FINGER PRICK** similar to that of a blood sugar test. This small sample will be taken and tested for Hepatitis B. All test results will be kept strictly confidential and this survey will greatly benefit the CNMI by providing important information on how common hepatitis B infection is for our children.



So please have your first grade child participate in this survey to know if your child is **PROTECTED** against Hepatitis B Virus infection.

For more information please contact Public Health Immunization Program at 236 8745.



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Local

Three juveniles, Saimon arrested

Police arrested three male juveniles who allegedly stole a purse containing cash and other items from a woman who was watching her son play tennis at the American Memorial Park tennis court Saturday night.

In the other theft case, police arrested Monday Maybeleen Saimon, a 30-year-old woman who has been wanted for more than a week for allegedly stealing a flat screen TV from a house in Chalan Kanoa.

The three juveniles were brought to the Juvenile Detention Facility where they are being detained, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst.

Hurst said the suspects confessed to spending some of the money to buy items, play games at an Internet café, and loan some of the cash to their friends.

Hurst said the victim's personal property and the remaining cash were returned to her that same evening.

Investigation showed that police were dispatched to the American Memorial Park tennis court on Saturday at 7:35pm for a reported theft incident.

Police officer Pete Seman of the DPS Tourism Oriented Police Station learned that three boys were suspected of stealing a purse from a woman who in the area with her family to

watch her son's tennis match.

The purse contained more than \$900 in cash, a mobile cellular phone, credit cards, and other personal items that totaled to over \$1,000.

Hurst said the victim had left her purse on the bleachers around 5:30pm to take photos of her son. When she returned to her seat shortly, her purse was already missing. The victim's friends began searching the area and talked to the other parents who were there.

One witness claimed to have seen three boys in the tennis court who later headed south along Middle Road by the Commonwealth Health Center.

Later that evening, detectives from the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation and TOPS officers received a tip that the same group of boys was seen by the Upper Miha Housing in Garapan.

The officers canvassed the Upper Miha area, resulting in the identification and apprehension of the three suspects.

Officers managed to recover the victim's purse, which was dumped along Middle Road by CHC, along with her wallet, which was thrown on top of the roof of an abandoned building in Lower Miha.

The victim's cellular phone, which was torn into two pieces,

was dumped in a grassy area behind Shirley's Restaurant in Garapan.

Hurst said the remainder of the victim's money, although accounted for, has yet to be recovered.

In Saimon's case, police served her with an arrest warrant in Chalan Kanoa Monday at 6:10pm for theft. A \$5,000 cash bail was initially imposed for her temporary release.

Saimon was set to appear before Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday afternoon for her initial hearing.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that Saimon stole a 32-inch LED flat screen TV from her mother's house in Chalan Kanoa last Oct. 9.

Pangelinan said that Saimon's mother had just rented the TV from Dial-Rent-To-Own on Sept. 18 and that she still needs 20 more months to pay it off.

Pangelinan said that Saimon admitted during police interview that she took the TV and asked her friend to pawn it for \$120 at a pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa.

Pangelinan said her follow-up investigation on Nov. 8 showed that the TV was still at the pawnshop. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM



Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.

Ask if your baby passed the test.
If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing is funded by the Cooperative Agreement for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance and Integration.



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Alleged victim testifies how Reyes sexually abused her thrice

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The alleged victim took the witness stand in Superior Court yesterday at the start of the jury trial of Alfredo E. Reyes, a 51-year-old man accused of sexually abusing the woman thrice in 2009 when she was just 16 years old.

The alleged victim, who is now 20 years old, said the first incident happened one night in May 2009, when, instead of bringing her to a store, Reyes took her to Laulau Beach.

While there, she said, Reyes accused her of having sex with another person. When she denied this, he slapped her in the face. She said Reyes then told her he would check if she was still a virgin, then sexually

abused her inside his pickup truck that was parked near the beach's pavilion.

"I was crying, telling him to stop. I was pushing him," the alleged victim said, adding that she felt pain in her privates.

A few months later, about September 2009, Reyes allegedly brought the victim to a beach at Coral Ocean Point where he accused her of the same issue he raised at Laulau Beach, then sexually abused her.

She said she noticed that Reyes has a big tattoo in his upper thigh.

The last incident allegedly happened two to three months later in the jungle area by the Hawaiian Rock Co. where the defendant sexually abused her again.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon,

assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda was still cross-examining the alleged victim. Assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas is assisting Cepeda in the trial.

Before the alleged victim's testimony, the prosecution called police detective Therese Kintoko, who is the lead investigator in the case, and the mother of the alleged victim.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato is counsel for Reyes, who is facing charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second de-

gree, and another offense.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer is assisting Sato as counsel for the defendant. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding.



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DPS: 3D campaign's ultimate goal is to have zero fatalities

The Department of Public Safety's "3D" Prevention Campaign's ultimate goal is to have zero fatalities from drunk and drugged driving in the Commonwealth, not only during the holidays but all throughout the year, according to police officer Adrian Mendiola.



Mendiola

Speaking at last week's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mendiola said that DPS on average responds to 2,200 vehicular crashes every year.

The data is culled from 2010 to 2013 numbers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to the same report, 32 crashes in 2012 were alcohol related, which is down from the 59 in 2011. In 2010, alcohol-related crashes in the CNMI totaled 63.

"In terms of fatalities, in 2012 we had three alcohol-related fatalities in crashes. In 2011, we had zero, which was a big accomplishment for us here. In 2010, we had four and the current year we had one alcohol-related fatality due to a car crash. But one life lost is still one life too many. Our main goal in this campaign is to reduce those numbers. But our ultimate goal to have the big zero and we need your help," said Mendiola.

While DPS' "3D" Campaign focuses on public information, public awareness, and enforcement, it also has the DD Program, which stands for Designated Driver Program.

"It's 100 percent made up of volunteers who sacrifice their time and sacrifice their holidays to give a safe ride

home to anybody who's been consuming alcohol during the holidays," said Mendiola.

Aside from volunteers, the DD Program also receives a lot of help from different companies that donate water, fruits, food, and rental cars that basically runs the program.

Some of the businesses that donated in-kind items to the "3D" Campaign are McDonald's Saipan, QQ Rental Car, Joeten Motors, Microl Corp., and Shell Marianas, to name a few.

Those who imbibe too much alcohol during the holidays and are in no condition to drive can call the DD Program at hotline 483-RIDE. Mendiola said that if you are too drunk to remember that number, you can also call 911 and the operator will connect you to the program.

Those who want to volunteer as designated drivers this holiday season can call 664-0091.

In past years, the "3D" Campaign has gotten around 30 volunteers who drive more than 60 impaired drivers, Mendiola said. They usually come with another designated driver so they can drive the impaired driver's car back home.

"That's 60 less impaired drivers on the highways and that's a good number. It's a good program and a lot of volunteers have had a lot of fun. They basically save lives when they provide a safe ride home. The program has been very effective and we've been getting good numbers with the transports," added Mendiola. *(Mark Rabago)*

CONTACT INFO

DD Program hotline:
483-RIDE

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\$5,000 GIVEN AWAY EACH WEEK



Fill up at Shell and reward yourself with the chance to win a shopping spree at any Joeten retail location this holiday season! Scan your Lucky 7 Gold card with every purchase of 3-gallons in gas from now until January 24, 2014 and be automatically entered for a chance to win.

Every Friday, beginning Dec. 13th, one (1) Lucky 7 member will win a \$3,000 shopping spree and four (4) Lucky 7 members will win a \$500 shopping spree.



No purchase necessary. Rules apply. See store for details.

PCC Thanksgiving fundraiser raises \$38K

Palau Community College held its annual Thanksgiving Endowment Fundraiser Event on Nov. 27, 2013, and managed to raise a total of \$38,642.

The money was raised through the sales of tickets, totaling \$24,110; donations, \$14,207; and telephone pledges, \$325.

The event was held at the Mesekiu Bai in the PCC Courtyard.

Ticket buyers consisted of businesses, government agencies, and state governments as well as numerous individuals in the community. Donations included monetary contributions and prizes such as a

laptop, piglet, and a summer house. Telephone pledges included donations from Joe Giramur, John Skebong, Orion Maritime Services, and Governor Wilson Ongos.

PCC would like to congratulate P. I. E - Printing Photo Service for winning the Summer House Grand Prize valued at \$5,000 as well as P. I. T. I for winning the baby grand prize, a United Airlines trip to Guam with \$350, and Julita Tellei for winning the baby grand prize, a United Airlines trip to Australia with \$350.

The college would like to thank all the donors, pledgers,

and ticket buyers for supporting the Annual PCC Thanksgiving Endowment Fundraiser. Your generous contributions will assist Palau's only institute of

higher learning achieve better educational conditions for the students of Palau and Micronesia. PCC would also like to thank the following sponsors

for supporting the event: United Airlines, Palau National Communications Corp., Western Caroline Trading Co., Surangel & Sons Company, Carp Corp.,

Blue Bay Petroleum Corp., Gibbons Ent., Palasia Hotel, IA Belau Co., Cliffside Hotel, Green Bay Hotel, and Eco-Paradise Radio Broadcasting. (PCC)

CCA REMINDERS

CCA board meeting on Dec. 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 3:00pm at the CCA conference room. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org.

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013, at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency, Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Joe Santos and Joe Guerrero. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org.

CPUC

From Page 1

CUC's electric base rate and other non-rate fees, however, remain on the commission's table for action.

In its order yesterday, the commission reduced CUC's fuel charge by 1.45 cents to 30.43 cents per kilowatt-hour. The new LEAC rate is now \$0.30426 per kilowatt-hour.

For a residential customer who uses 455 kilowatt-hours of power a month, this will represent \$6.46 in monthly savings.

CPUC described the new LEAC charge as reasonable and necessary for the non-profit utilities corporation.

"The record contains preponderant evidence that this LEAC charge is just, reasonable and necessary," stated the commission order, which also temporarily allowed CUC to adjust the LEAC charge in case world fuel prices fluctuate to a certain degree.

The commission also directed CUC and the commission's regulatory consultant, Georgetown Consulting, to review all CUC

fuel charges from Oct. 1, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2013, to see whether CUC customers were overcharged for the cost of fuel during this period. The commission will review this report at a public hearing during its April 2014 regulatory session and will order a customer refund, if appropriate.

CPUC conducts periodic reviews of CUC's fuel charges to ensure that customers pay no more or less than the actual cost of fuel.

It has also directed CUC to report at the April 2014 regulatory session on its efforts to reduce unaccounted-for energy losses in its system.

Ratepayers pay for but receive no benefit for energy that is lost due to theft, system inefficiencies, defective meters, and metering and billing errors. Given the high cost of fuel, the reduction of energy losses provides an important way to reduce customer bills, the commission said.

Prior to approving the new LEAC rate yesterday, commissioners took turns questioning CUC officials why they opted to recommend an effectivity

date of Jan. 1, 2014, for the new rate when it could have taken effect "immediately," similar to previous orders and recommendations.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren pointed out that because of the time needed to complete reconciliation and adjustments, those customers who have already been billed may not benefit from the new LEAC rate reduction if it becomes effective today, Dec. 11.

Receivables

Warren said yesterday that the corporation has \$18.5 million in receivables from the government and its agencies and this continues to burden customers and CUC.

"The current effect of the government receivables is in the 'bad debt' [element of the LEAC charge]. As you can see, that is about a penny of the charge," explained Warren.

The components of the new LEAC rate include the following: LEAC fuel and lube oil (\$0.28078); volatility element (\$0.01263); regulatory and technical support (\$0.00115); and bad debt (\$0.00970).

Warren disclosed that of the \$18.5 million receivables, the bulk of the amount is owed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., totaling \$10.2 million. The rest is shared by the Public School System (\$6.3 million) and central government (\$2 million).

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, during yesterday's deliberation, disclosed that government receivables pose a burden for residential customers and CUC itself as money for its operation is being used to pay for fuel. "This is affecting us because we're left with less money for operation."

Fletcher said that despite efforts to resolve these issues in the past, such as a memorandum of understanding and other resolutions, CUC remains unsuccessful in collecting arrears from its debtors.

Fletcher bared CUC's plan to initiate a "formal collection" measure but he didn't elaborate. But in a short remark during yesterday's meeting, CUC legal counsel James Sirok informed the CPUC that suits have been filed against these debtors.

FOOD

From Page 1

the 30-day off-list policy.

"But I will definitely be on top of this matter since this is just one of the many transformation initiatives that I am pushing for at the state level," DeLeon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

NAP, which is under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, administers the federally funded program in the CNMI.

DeLeon Guerrero, as acting Labor secretary, also has the daunting task of collaborating with other workforce stakeholders in ensuring that over 10,000 U.S. workers will be ready to take over the jobs currently held by foreign workers.

If the U.S. Labor secretary does not grant the CNMI government's request to extend the transitional CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, the Commonwealth would lose immediate access to some 12,000 foreign workers—unless these

positions are filled with qualified U.S. workers.

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census data, unemployment rate in the CNMI is 11.2 percent.

"About 10,711 of the total population are not in the employment workforce. You can see the scale in terms of how many individuals are not working as of Census 2010 data," DeLeon Guerrero said.

Noncompliance

On the first round of detailed reporting since DeLeon Guerrero became acting labor secretary on Oct. 3, the CNMI Department of Labor reported 68 non-compliant food stamp recipients.

These were followed by three other reports with non-compliant food stamp beneficiaries of 46, 12, and four.

"The total non-compliant recipients Labor reported to NAP is 130," DeLeon Guerrero said.

At least 84 other individuals have pending compliance report as of yesterday, additional data from DeLeon Guerrero's

office show.

DeLeon Guerrero, whose nomination as Labor secretary drew strong support from community members yesterday on Capitol Hill, said that extending the period of suspension will help ensure that able-bodied individuals "become self-sufficient and truly engaged in the workforce community so that they can feed their family with their hard-earned dollars."

She said people who qualify to receive food stamp ought to receive assistance, but there are also things that these recipients need to do.

And as workforce stakeholders, Labor needs to encourage people to "work and produce that income for the family" so that they're able to buy their own car, build their own home, or send their children to college.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, headed currently by acting chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), received testimony from the public yesterday morning—all

in support of DeLeon Guerrero's nomination.

Senators also took turns asking her questions.

One of them, Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), said it's not only about training U.S. workers but also about having private sector employers hiring them.

Overall, the panel is poised to recommend DeLeon Guerrero's confirmation to the full Senate.

Acting Senate president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) said the Senate may hold a session on Friday, depending on the outcome of the EAGI Committee's public hearings on DeLeon Guerrero's nominations and that of others, including Superior Court associate judge-nominee Teresa Kim-Tenorio, set for 10am today.

In an interview after the public hearing yesterday, DeLeon Guerrero said she believes in performance, accountability, and success.

In her statement before the committee, DeLeon Guerrero said she does not come with

the attitude of "what's in it for me" but rather, "what is best and needed to be done to bring the CNMI state in good standing with its federal grantor so that employment and training dollars intended for those that are in need are not jeopardized."

She also cited 15 specific plans for Labor, including implementation of "transformation changes" where "business is no longer as usual" and "reducing food stamp dependency."

Changes

Before her appointment as acting Labor secretary, DeLeon Guerrero was executive director of the Workforce Investment Agency from 2006 to Oct. 2, 2013.

Gov. Eloy Inos merged WIA with Labor, and appointed DeLeon Guerrero to head Labor. Her nomination requires the Senate's advice and consent.

In a recent two-day job fair, Labor saw over 450 individuals coming out looking for work.

But in the CNMI Labor's system, there's 1,742 individuals that have registered looking

tion of data and statistics.

The joint communiqué was signed by presidents, governors or official representatives of the CNMI, Guam, FSM and its four states, Palau and the Marshall Islands.

The Micronesian leaders also requested that funding for the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future be reinstated to help respond not only to Compact impact issues but other critical regional issues as well.

They added that a secretariat function is critical to ongoing and effective communication and cooperation.

Based on the joint communiqué, Interior assured the chief executives that they support Micronesian jurisdictions in their efforts to find solutions to financial, social, and cultural issues related to Compact impact.

Interior, according to the joint communiqué, indicated improvements in future responses and programs.

Also among the Compact impact initiatives reviewed included leveraging of partners, corrections facility overcrowding, health care impact, Centers for Disease Control assistance, OIA technical assistance, and other programs aimed at minimizing current Compact impacts.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier told reporters that while the CNMI welcomes the fiscal year 2013 funding of \$1.9 million to offset costs associated with the hosting of FAS migrants, the amount is far below the actual impact costs.

He said that based on the CNMI's calculation, the total cost to the Commonwealth of hosting FAS citizens that the U.S. government has not paid is some \$200 million.

for work, DeLeon Guerrero told reporters.

"We're looking carefully at all JVAs [job vacancy announcements] and which individuals are qualified for those positions. We're making referrals to companies in the private sector," she said.

There have been private sector firms that were called in or warned for not complying with local labor laws related to hiring of qualified U.S. workers, she added.

U.S. Public Law 110-229, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, "did not preempt the local labor laws," DeLeon Guerrero said.

One of the provisions in the CNMI labor law that is under review is the exemptions for small companies to hire at least one U.S. worker if they have less than five employees.

"However, if you have been licensed to do business in the Commonwealth for three years and more, you must have at least one U.S. citizen employee," she said.

6 lawmakers in Alaska, Hong Kong; others also off-island

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

At least six lawmakers are currently in Alaska and Hong Kong on official trips, while another one will be in Guam later this week also on official business. At least three others are also outside the CNMI on personal leave.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) are off-island from Dec. 10 to 18. Their travel notification did not indicate where they're headed but *Saipan Tribune* sources said they're bound for Alaska.

At the Legislature, off-island travel notifications only indicate the departure and arrival dates, but not the destination and the

specific purpose of travel. As a result, most lawmakers in the CNMI are not aware where their colleagues go.

Meanwhile, four members of the Senate and House Committees on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications are in Hong Kong, at the invitation of Blue Ocean Energy Corp., which plans to invest in a \$100-million, 50-megawatt liquefied natural gas plant project on Saipan.

Saipan Tribune sources said the Hong Kong-bound lawmakers include Senate PUTC Committee chair Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), House PUTC chair Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. John Paul Sablan

(Cov-Saipan).

Hong Kong-based Blue Ocean Energy visited Saipan in May to present their plan to build an LNG power plant that they said will provide electricity at least 20 percent per kilowatt hour cheaper than what is currently charged by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Reps. Felicidad Ogomoro (R-Saipan) and Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) remain off-island

on personal leave, right after attending a national women's forum. Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) is also on personal leave.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) will be going back to Guam on Thursday for a meeting of the Pacific Islands Development Bank's board of directors.

Deleon Guerrero, currently chairman of the PIDB board of governors, said he was invited

to the board of directors meeting in Guam to, among other things, witness the completion of the Marshall Islands' membership pledge to PIDB.

Member-island territories are supposed to pledge \$1 million each. This week, the Marshall Islands will be turning in its remaining \$250,000 pledge to reach the \$1 million mark, the speaker said.

Deleon Guerrero is also the chairman of the PIDB board of

governors' capitalization task force. In this week's meeting in Guam, they will also take up the finalization of a five-year strategic plan.

The speaker just came back from Guam to attend last week's meeting of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, wherein they tackled issues of common interests and proposed solutions, including in the area of healthcare and transportation.

Application for SI-NMI Women's Opportunity Awards still open

Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands is accepting applications for its Women's Opportunity Awards until this Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013.

The grant gives \$1,000 to the winning applicant and is open to women who want to improve their job skills through education and training.

The local organization's president, Jill Arenovski, said those interested must accomplish an application form and provide two references and email it to sinorthernmarianaislands@soroptimist.net. So far, the club has received 12 applications but would like to get more.

Arenovski said the group already distributed flyers and some application forms during the recent Cash for College event of the Northern Marianas College.

She said they received a lot of inquiries at the event and phone calls asking about the Women's Opportunity Awards in the days since then.

"We want to entice more applicants to submit their applications. Hopefully we'll get a lot of applicants because it's a great opportunity for women here. We're really thrilled to have this grant here on Saipan," said Arenovski.

The Women's Opportunity Awards is a program that helps women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects.

The award may be used to offset any costs associated with efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, and transportation.

Chartered last Oct. 27, Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands currently has 18 members. Arenovski serves as president, while the other officers are Shelly Scott, vice president; Roxanne Torres, secretary; and Tania David, treasurer.

The group meets every month and its next meeting is tomorrow, Dec. 12, 12pm at Coco's Restaurant in Garapan.

The group also recently held

its first Thanksgiving pie and dessert sale and Arenovski is happy to report that it was an unqualified success, raising between \$500 and \$700.

Soroptimist International is a global women's organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

For more information about Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands and the Women's Opportunity Awards, contact Arenovski at 287-9395 or sinorthernmarianaislands@soroptimist.net. (Mark Rabago)

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Emergency Food & Shelter Program funds available

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

The CNMI has been chosen to receive \$73,234 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the Commonwealth.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency

and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide.

The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country. A Local Board here in the CNMI will determine how the funds awarded are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service

agencies. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private

voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

The Local Board has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously to DYS, Guma Esperansa, Kari-dat, Salvation Army and the Mayor of Saipan (utility assistance program).

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Local Board chair John Hirsh at 234-3459 for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is Dec. 20. (PR)

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WITH THE STATUS OF ITS ACCREDITATION STILL PENDING

NMC frets about bill appointing student as board regent

Officials and board members of the Northern Marianas College were alarmed to learn that a bill is now pending in the Senate that if enacted, may jeopardize the institution's accreditation status.

Frankie Elliptico, NMC director for external affairs, disclosed

during Friday's board meeting that the college has opposed the idea presented by Senate Bill 18-17, which recommends the appointment of a student representative as an additional member of the NMC board, with equal rights and privileges.

The Board of Regents had just adopted a policy that removed all honorary regents in response to concerns raised by the accreditation commission, which said that honorary regents are not according to standards and violate policies when they participate in

policymaking issues.

Before this, the college had honorary regents that included the presidents of the Associated Students of NMC, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate.

Elliptico said that NMC is concerned because if SB 18-17 is enacted into law, it might potentially impact the accrediting commission's decision on the status of the college.

NMC is currently under a severe sanction of show cause and may lose its accreditation if deficiencies identified by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College-

es are not resolved. A decision on NMC's fate is expected after the commission's January 2014 assembly.

Saipan Tribune learned that SB 18-17, remains at the committee level for review.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart is hopeful that the bill will go no further. She told the board that lawmakers "heard us loud and clear [on that issue]." She also cited a letter sent by ASNMC president Alex Shen to the Legislature, reiterating opposition to the bill.

The decision to remove the honorary regents was at the recommendation of the AC-CJC after the commission aired concerns about these honorary members' participation and in-

volvement in the discussion of policy issues. The removal of these honorary members was meant to preserve the board's independence. They emphasized that this decision is a right step toward the desired reaffirmation for the college.

Team Recommendation No. 8 from the accreditation commission states: "The team urges the college board to reconsider its policy of having honorary regents who are elected to represent some college constituent groups, participate in direct discussion of policy issues during board meetings." The team indicated in the report that the existence of honorary members is a violation of accreditation standards. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

New charge filed vs ex-acting DFW chief

An additional charge was filed yesterday in federal court against former acting CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife director Raymond Borja Roberto, who was arrested by Federal Bureau of Investigation in August for allegedly paying for sex with three minors.

The superseding indictment charged the 40-year-old Roberto with two counts of coercion and enticement of a minor. The charges involved two girls.

The original indictment

charged him with only one count of coercion and enticement of a minor that involved one girl.

According to the new indictment, from March 1, 2013, to about July 18, 2013, Roberto, "using a facility and means of interstate or foreign commerce, knowingly persuaded, induced, enticed and coerced" two minors to engage in sexual activity.

Attorney Joaquin Torres, counsel for Roberto, earlier cited some alleged inconsistencies in the

girls' statements to the FBI.

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan is joining in the case as co-counsel for Torres.

Saipan Tribune learned that Roberto served as acting CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife for only two days.

FBI agents arrested him on Aug. 31 on charges of coercion and enticement. The case is related to the earlier arrest of firefighter Richard S. Benavente and suspected pimp Annette N. Basa. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Docomo welcomes GTA entry to CNMI

The more the merrier.

That seems to be Docomo Pacific's sentiments regarding GTA's long-delayed attempt to enter the CNMI market.

"We welcome competition, for sure. GTA is trying to get into Saipan but obviously they're being blocked...so that's their battle. Competition breeds better service and better pricing for the general public," said Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson.

He said that GTA actually is a

bigger competition to Docomo than IT&E is in Guam.

"Docomo is the largest wireless carrier in the Marianas. We're No. 2 on Saipan but we're No. 1 in Guam and GTA is No. 2 in Guam. We [Docomo and GTA] are actually direct competitors because GTA also has digital TV. They have TV, landline, Internet, and wireless and so do we. They're our big competitor in Guam. We're not competing with them here because obviously they're not in the CNMI."

This comes a few days after *Saipan Tribune* reported that negotiations between GTA and IT&E have failed.

Nonetheless GTA Teleguam executive vice presi-

dent Daniel J. Tidings said the company remains committed to expanding to the Commonwealth.

He also disclosed that the disposition of the legal case that IT&E filed on Saipan will proceed with the CNMI court.

In October 2011, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved GTA's application to provide local exchange services in the Commonwealth. The company initially planned to begin operations in the CNMI in mid-2012 but that did not happen after IT&E sought a rehearing on GTA's application and then filed a case against the CPUC on the decision it made on GTA. (*Mark Rabago*)

UOG lecture series to feature Tony Babauta


The 21st speaker in the University of Guam Presidential Lecture Series is Anthony "Tony" M. Babauta, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. His lecture, titled "Federal Policy Making In the Nation's Capital: An Agat Boy's Perspective," will take place at 3:30pm on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013, at the UOG College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Lecture Hall.

"It's a great opportunity for our students and the university community to hear from someone who has advocated for Guam in the highest levels of the Obama administration," said UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood.

While at UOG, Babauta will also be visiting and guest speaking in classes.


Babauta served as President Barack Obama's Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas from September 2009 to February 2013. In this position, he oversaw the federal administration of the U.S. territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. His responsibilities also included the financial and political oversight of the Compacts of Free Association relationship between U.S. and the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

Babauta was instrumental in the Presidential Executive Order re-establishing the Interagency Group on Insular Areas. (*UOG*)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-14-003

Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank at Power Plant No.1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals (Request for Proposals - RFP) from qualified and experienced Tank erection / installation firms for correction of existing defects, assembly, installation and commissioning a new Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST), as per the specifications contained in the proposal document and monitored through a construction management firm and a third party quality control firm, contracted by CUC. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and Integrity Inspection Program.

The Saipan Power plant is located in the Lower Base Industrial Area near the Saipan Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The foundation, tank and accessories have been designed by a US based company and the tank assembly kit was supplied to Saipan port by the same company, United Industries Group, CA (UIG) for installation by a local contractor. The previous construction contractor has been terminated due to default and performance issues while the metal work and welding work was in progress. The project is currently in a partially finished state.

The purpose of this RFP is to ensure the CUC is to ensure that the new tank is built to the codes and standards to which it was originally designed, including the corrections necessary, details of which have been described in the RFP and meets the stringent tests and inspections noted therein. Upon being awarded the contract and receiving the Notice to Proceed (NTP), the contractor will complete the correction as provided in the RFP. Following schedules shall be noted by all vendors:

- Contract Award - February 6, 2014
- Notice to proceed / site mobilization - February 13, 2014
- Tank completion - July 8, 2014

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon request, to all interested proposers, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 18, 2013.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit is scheduled at the Saipan CUC Power Plant 1, administration building on December 18, 2013 at 10:00 AM, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Six(6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-003 - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank at Power Plant No.1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than December 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Upon award of the contract the Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00am (ChST) on December 20, 2013, to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Petroleum and Compliance Manager, Mr. Andrew Longworth at andrew.longworth@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

CHARLES WARREN
Acting Executive Director

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CONCERNED CITIZENS

DEQ hosts facility survey forum on hazmat

All CNMI businesses and facilities that store, process, use or manufacture harmful or potentially harmful substances are urged to attend this facility survey forum.

This outreach program will provide the people of the Commonwealth the opportunity to participate in a CNMI-wide survey of regulated and unregulated facilities, to aid in the augmentation of state response plan, and the enhancement of current harmful substance cleanup regulations, for the betterment and enhancement of the quality of life, health and safety of the people of the CNMI.

The Division of Environmental Quality and its consultant, Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, will assist those surveyed with regulatory compliance and understanding of the DEQ regulations.

This survey is for all facilities in the Commonwealth that store, manufacture, process, or use harmful or potentially harmful substances or generate waste that may pose a potential threat to the health and safety of the people and environment of the CNMI.

The owners and operators of facilities, including private business enterprises, non-profit organizations and government agencies, are encouraged to participate in a public meeting where the surveys are to be conducted. During this meeting and follow-up survey, participants are encouraged to ask questions and become better informed on how to employ best management practices to remain in compliance with these regulations, to avoid penalties, and to protect the islands' environment!

The public meetings will be held at the following locations, times and dates.

■ Saipan's public meeting will be held at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library today, Dec. 11, from 2:30pm to 4pm.

■ Tinian's public meeting will be held at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room on Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 8:30am to 10am.

■ Rota's public meeting will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room on Wednesday Jan. 8, 2014, from 8:30am to 10am

Survey information to be collected will include:

■ Quantities and types of hazardous materials (including waste) that is manufactured, stored, processed, or otherwise used at each facility.

■ The types of business activities carried out by the facility.

■ Facility procedures and plans and personnel training records for the mitigation of spills or releases of hazardous substances.

■ History of facility hazardous substance releases.

Personnel from DEQ and APEC will be available to assist the owners/operators of participating facilities in the completion of the surveys. DEQ would like to thank the owners and operators of all applicable facilities for their participation. All inquiries regarding this program and survey may be directed to Robert Jordan, APEC CNMI project manager, via P.O. BOX 10001, PMB A6, SAIPAN, MP 96950 or call 670.322.7709, fax 670.322.7708, or email apecnmi@pticom.com. (DEQ)

Georgetown opposes funding for Telesource contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Georgetown Consulting Services, the independent consultant of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, is opposed to the idea of providing funding for the contract of Telesource CNMI, Inc., the independent power producer for Tinian.

The consultant made this clear in a joint stipulation filed before the CPUC on Friday. In the revised electric rate application submitted to the commission, Georgetown said that change order No. 5 for the Telesource contract is the only disagreement between the parties in the stipulation.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Telesource contract requires Telesource to convey title to the Tinian plant and assets to CUC. Telesource has failed to perform this contractual duty. Georgetown believes this to be a significant failing and recommends that title be transferred immediately, according to the revised stipulation.

Telesource CNMI Inc. is the independent power producer on Tinian. It wants to be paid a higher rate. This amendment to its contract—called change order No. 5—was approved on Nov. 29, 2011, but was put on hold in January 2012. Change order No. 5 provides extensions of up to 15 years on the Telesource contract, with incremental increases each year that will be sourced from electric base charges.

CUC had earlier asked that \$1.412 million for fiscal year 2014 be recognized to fund the obligations that it would incur under change order No. 5 of the contract.

A decision on the rate application filed before CPUC, which include the Telesource change order No. 5, among other components, will be decided within the month or in early January.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 11, 2005

MVA still upbeat over China market

Although it failed to meet its goal to bring in 50,000 tourists from China in fiscal year 2005, the Marianas Visitors Authority still remains upbeat about the market. MVA managing director Vicky I. Benavente also clarified that the goal last fiscal year was actually to penetrate the China market. "We're not really looking for 50,000. Our goal was to enter the market, which we did because of the Approved Destination Status," said Benavente in a recent interview. She said the MVA targets to bring the number in fiscal year 2006.

EPA: DEQ lab is regional center of excellence

The Environmental Protection Agency Region has lauded the CNMI's Division of Environmental Quality for having a laboratory that could be considered a regional center of excellence. This according to a letter signed by EPA Pacific Islands Office manager John McCarroll to DEQ director John I. Castro Jr. last Tuesday. McCarroll said a DEQ lab engineer was the only state or territorial drinking water engineer in the United States sent to Sri Lanka for tsunami response.

December 11, 2006

'Saipan casino is the only solution'

The only solution for the economic problem that the CNMI is experiencing now is establishing a casino industry on Saipan, according to former Governor Froilan Tenorio. "No other industry can revive, turnaround our economy other than casino," said Tenorio in an interview with Saipan Tribune. The former governor underscored the need to revive the tourism industry, which he said is really CNMI's only industry. "You know the garment industry is just supplementing what the revenues that tourism is bringing in. We cannot survive without tourism. We can survive without the garment industry," he pointed out.

Govt favors turning CUC debt into rebate

The Fitial administration is still mulling a proposed legislation to require a private company taking over Saipan's main power plants to repay half the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's debt by rebating it out to customers. Press Secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said that Senate Bill 15-62, which was passed by the Legislature on Nov. 30, 2006, is still under review. The administration backed the bill's original version, which sought to free CUC's future independent power producer from the obligation to pay half of CUC's \$45.5-million debt to Commonwealth Development Authority.

December 11, 2007

Kaipat: Read the labor law first

The author of the controversial new labor law took a swipe at some of Friday's protesters, daring them to research the legislation they were protesting. "A lot of people I know probably marched only because they wanted to be part of something they call 'historic.' I'm all for freedom of speech, but I hope they can be as enthusiastic about reading more about the labor law as they were about joining the protest. I heard some people did not even know what the law was about," Rep. Cinta Kaipat said in an interview yesterday. Kaipat maintained that the measure, which she had introduced in the Legislature, sought two things: One is to offer more job opportunities to local workers. The other is to ensure guest workers are treated fairly.

'Out-of-pocket retirement share for lawmakers'

As though to prod the Legislature to act faster on the budget, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has told lawmakers that their employer retirement contributions will be deducted directly from their salaries until a new budget is passed. Fitial noted that the government's employer contribution account is empty under the current continuing resolution. Employer retirement contributions were suspended during fiscal year 2007. As such, the FY2007 appropriation law did not provide funding for such payments. Because no new budget has been passed for FY2008, the government is now operating under last fiscal year's budget. Fitial said that, with the suspension expired and under continuing resolution for FY2008, the cost of employer contributions of the respective employees of the Legislative Bureau, the elected offices, and the legislative leadership will have to be funded directly by the respective business units.



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Hofschneider honors Capt. Adrian Evangelista



From Left to Right- Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Captain Adrian R. Evangelista, and Parents Antonio and Evelyn Evangelista.



Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider presenting a plaque to USMC Captain Adrian R. Evangelista alongside his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Evangelista.

TINIAN—Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider honored U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Adrian R. Evangelista with a plaque of special recognition yesterday during a Marine Corps exercise on the island of Tinian.

Evangelista, who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and is now a V-22 Osprey pilot for the U.S. Marine Corps, successfully landed a V-22 Osprey at the Tinian International Airport yesterday morning. He and the V-22 crew were greeted by Evangelista's family and friends, as well as CNMI dignitaries, including Hofschneider, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, the Tinian Municipal Council,

and Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

"I am proud to be here to greet a son of the Northern Mariana Islands on behalf of Gov. [Eloy] Inos, myself, and the people of the Northern Marianas," said Hofschneider. "We congratulate Captain Evangelista for all of his accomplishments and thank him for his service to our islands and our nation. He truly is a role model to all our youth here in the CNMI."

The plaque of special recognition was presented to Evangelista in honor of his exemplary service as a pilot and Osprey section leader in the U.S. Marine Corps. (*Office of the Lt. Governor*)

Guam Legislature raises over \$3K in typhoon relief drive for Palau island

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D. led the Guam Legislature in raising over \$3,000 during a relief drive for the Palauan victims of Typhoon Haiyan at the ITC and Maga'lahi Kepuha intersections on Friday afternoon.

On its path to the Philippines, Typhoon Haiyan hit Kayangel, the northernmost island of the Republic of Palau on Nov. 7, 2013. The residents of Kayangel suffered great damage from sustained winds of about 160 miles per hour with gusts to about 175 miles per hour. All but two buildings on the island were destroyed. Corn and taro farms were also damaged during the storm. It will be years before the island recovers from these damages.

"I would like to thank all those who have shown their support for our sisters and brothers in Kayangel, Palau, especially those who made gen-

erous donations at our typhoon relief drive," said Won Pat. "All donations will go directly to the people of Kayangel to help rebuild the homes, farms, school and clinic that were ravaged by the storm."

The Kayangel Club of Guam and other Palauan community groups were also present at the typhoon relief drive.

"On behalf of the Kayangel Club of Guam, our president and vice president, I would like to thank everybody that came together on Friday," said Alexander Kloulubak, Kayangel Typhoon Relief Committee chairman for the Kayangel Club of Guam. "I was very amazed and humbled by the generous donations that were made to Kayangel. I am speechless, really. It truly shows how when there is a disaster, or when people are faced with hardships, we all become one as brothers and sisters." (*PR*)

Applications open for environmental educators' award

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, is currently accepting applications for the third annual Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators.

The award recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers and their local education agencies nationwide for excellence in integrating environmental education into their lessons and demonstrating the connection between health and the environment for

their students.

Successful applicants demonstrate creativity, innovation, community engagement and leadership as students learn more about civic responsibility and environmental stewardship.

Past winners have increased student participation in local watershed cleanup efforts, created schoolwide recycling programs, and implemented green land stewardship practices.

Winners went on to use their

awards to bring high-tech science equipment into the classroom and expand the number of students on field trips and in labs.

Applicants have until Feb. 28, 2014, to apply for the award under updated

criteria released in November. Up to 20 teachers nationwide will receive award plaques and a financial award of \$2,000 to support their professional development in environmental education. Each

teacher's school will also receive a \$2,000 award to help fund environmental education activities and programs that support the teacher. Winners will also be considered for the National Environmental Education Foundation's Richard C. Bartlett award, which recognizes outstanding teachers who engage students in interdisciplinary solutions to environmental challenges.

More information about the program and how to apply: <http://www.epa.gov/education/teacheraward>. (*EPA*)

ON THE NET
<http://www.epa.gov/education/teacheraward>



Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-14-003 Position: Web Content Editor
PL-UNGRADED: \$671.42 B/W Opening Date: December 4, 2013
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee Closing Date: December 16, 2013
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Updates the CNMI Legislative website not limited to status tables, calendar, agenda, journals, and legislative documents and information;
- Operates personal computer;
- Maintains the Legislature's website;
- Converts legislative documents to Adobe PDF file format or electronic media format as required;
- Archiving of legislative electronic files;
- Manage legislative email accounts;
- Maintain the legislature's local area network;
- Install upgrades and troubleshoots Windows operating systems as well as category 5 cables and switches;
- Assist legislative and Bureau staff on network and computer-related matters;
- Recommend and upgrade technological needs of the Legislature;
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess two years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree in Computer Applications or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education;
- Excellent organizational, analytical, and time management skills, detailed-oriented and ability to multi-task;
- Basic knowledge of HTML;
- Proficiencies in Windows Operating Systems, Microsoft Word and spreadsheet applications.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.



Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-14-002 Position: Fiscal Analyst
PL-UNGRADED: \$1,538.91 B/W Opening Date: December 4, 2013
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee Closing Date: December 16, 2013
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Conducts budget analysis, monitors agency and institution budgets, and prepares related reports;
- Provides information and assistance on the status of legislative proposals and measures, budgetary and fiscal practices, and prepares summaries and explanations of budget-related reports and proposed legislation;
- Provides assistance in analyzing departmental budget requests, including necessary documentation, investigation, and related budget impact studies;
- Provides technical assistance to the Legislature on cost-benefit analyses or fiscal reports on proposed legislation or current programs;
- Conducts fiscal and general research for Legislative Committees and for individual legislators, prepares reports and analysis on findings, and presents alternative solutions for consideration;
- Drafts bills, resolutions, reports, and amendments;
- Makes oral presentations and responds to questions regarding state budget and fiscal matters;
- When necessary, attends budget hearings, committee meetings, and legislative sessions; and
- Performs other duties as directed.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Must possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in Public Administration, Business Administration, Accounting, Economics or related field with two years experience; or possess eight years of relevant work experience;
- Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process and the CNMI government budgeting process;
- Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills; and
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Issues that matter

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Major policy decision: It was pleasant to hear the vision of Sen. Victor Hocog who had a joint measure adopted last week to privatize the utility agency. A successful effort toward alternative energy should ease the pain of both sectors of the CNMI amidst a myriad of increases, from health insurance to the impending spike in the cost of goods. What's my point?

Elected officials simply must leave their political narratives at the door and focus on easing the deluge of increases in the cost of living here. It's taking the lead to return the economic freedom of "we the people" permanently.

The number of unsolicited increases has sent most families to the abyss of hopelessness and destitution. It need not be this way!

You as elected officials are agents of change. We definitely rely upon your wisdom to see the deepening hardship through our lenses. The perennial neglect hasn't worked and it never will. It's time to join hands. Let's park political narratives at the door in favor of rebuilding the livelihood of our people.

Leadership: The quality of life of any country is dependent upon the quality of its leadership. Are we talking about educated leadership who are percipient and conversant on substantive issues? Or is it the usual bunch that gropes for words when slammed with issues of importance? How do you assess this issue? Is it time to begin a major shift to leadership with decent credentials?

Deluge of hardship: Everybody is cringing, wrapped in despair at the consistent and persistent loss of familial purchasing power since recent past. The deluge of helpless pining is everywhere. Interesting that the lights are on but nobody's home. Or need I change the prescription on my glasses? When could they see hardship through our lenses?

Now, what's the prevailing unemployment rate here? Guam has 35 percent unemployment and its returning troops without jobs would have to do search and rescue to secure meaningful employment. It's the net result of a protracted economic growth, though our southern neighbor has done a lot better than the CNMI. Answers, anybody?

Landownership: Pro-NMDs bravely spout limiting landownership to the indigenous people. Let's get one thing straight: Covenant Section 805 was intended to *prevent land exploitation*. It didn't say anything else. Nor is it fertile ground to use as a license to spout issues beyond its intent. Stick to what it says, not what you thought it said. It's day and night!

If this provision is the granddaddy of Article 12, then it should be understood that it isn't a license either to provide for an unconstitutional provision. Eh, the last I checked, one plus one is two, not three. Intellectual integrity is a must tool of discussion on this issue. The loose tweaking of Section 805 is but dishonesty in a lawless-ness land!

Ethnicity: I grew up with mixed blood in my system, from Chamorro, Carolinian, and Spanish. In 1523 Juan Desal (DelRosario) came to the new world with others. I chuckle at the notion that all along I've been one *haole* kid rooted on my ancestry.

I grew up in the '60s among my Chamolinian brothers and sisters, and other ethnic groups. I never had issues navigating our differences but settled peacefully and harmoniously in the land of unity for they are people too. Am I supposed to be superior as a result of my ethnicity?

See ISSUES on Next Page



Madiba's swing and sway

An old Irish blessing goes:
*You gotta dance like there's nobody watching.
You gotta love like you'll never be hurt.
You gotta sing like there's nobody listening.
And you gotta live life like it's Heaven on Earth.*

Celebrating the completed life of Nelson Mandela is an affirmation of the vigor of his living rather than sorrow over his demise. People in South Africa gather outside his home to sing all day and dance all night, with nary a tear unless with delight!

As a 10-day wake for the hero is observed, noticeable videos of Mandela swinging, fists clasped and elbows crooked to the sway, are played. I never took Mandela in motion seriously as an act of personal choice as well as a blessed part of his genetics. Now it gives me pause. I went to school in the U.S. southwest where Uncle Tom's shuffle in vaudevillian caricature was portrayed. The stereotype was and is pejorative: Afro-Americans do not walk; they shuffle in deference to the superiority of the whiteness!

In the Blue Mountains of Jamaica in the '80s, I noticed folks did not quite walk the same way I did; they sauntered to an internal beat with the fingers snapping like those in the alleyways of Chicago's Uptown where I once hung out. "We don't walk, we dance," Bob Marley's followers intoned.

It was not until I made it to Ijede by Lagos Lagoon in Nigeria that I understood the dance beats and formations. We were singing Zambia's *Tiyende pmodzi ndi mtima umo* (let us live together in harmony) song when African colleagues started moving all parts of their bodies, with angular bending of arms, legs and torso, moving the shoulder and the hip, with stamping, scuffing, and hopping steps. While there is asymmetrical use of the body, there is fluid movement on all parts. A West African colleague blurted: "We dance when the Spirit moves." It moved a lot!

I watched Anthony Quinn's rendition of Kazantzakis' *Zorba the Greek* in the movie version. This was at a time when Protestants were reclaiming their emotive tradition of the Lord of the Dance. Zorba was my quintessential male dancer. Dancing in the face of adversity was not foreign to me. The Pinoy's *tinikling* chronicles two birds caught in a bamboo grove in the middle of fierce wind and turbulent storm, and their only option to keep out of danger is to dance!

The West African dance bends the body slightly toward the earth, flattening the feet against it in a wide, solid stance in contrast to the European ballet's upright posture; even Zorba's arms are lifted upward, with feet raised on tiptoes. Pinoy's *tinikling* also does the same; the toes dip into and in between the clashing bamboo poles. In contrast, the slightly bent body and bowed head of the African dance is unmistakably earthbound! The planet Earth is home!

While there are solo performances in circle dances, it is always

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



supported by the communal spirit of hand clapping, shouting, and singing. Patterns established by traditions are permitted individual creativity. Fresh interpretations of familiar gestures are allowed. Individual moves are encouraged. Madiba's swing is at once an existential expression of his being and that of his social context. I call it universal democracy, a long way from the Afrikaners' apartheid!

Those familiar with jazz know improvisation and polyrhythms. It comes from the sub-Saharan African dance where several beats are simultaneously drummed. The hip swings to a beat, while the shoulder lifts to another, and the knees bend and the feet stamp to others.

I visited West Africa in the '80s where anthropologically the drum is said to have become the leading instrument in guiding dance moves. Enslaved in America, the African body rhythm created a broad range of percussion instruments, even as the gestures of hand clapping, foot tapping, and flesh patting were sources of percussive sounds.

In the shadows of the Africa's rainforests and savannahs, the drum-beat was the mode of communications as smoke signals were used in the open prairies of the Americas. Dance movements came to imitate animal behavior like the slithering of the snake and the elephant walk. The Spirit swirls one step and a hop at a time—forward, backward, and sideways. Humanity flowers and blooms in dance!

Copernicus and Galileo pointed their instruments to the sky; Newton lounging under a tree noticed force in the falling of an apple. It is this earthbound quality of our time that makes Madiba not just a man of the ages but a contemporary wayfarer in the chaotic dance of our secular-scientific-urban era. Indeed, the signs of the prophets are written on the subway walls and tenement halls, as they are in Soweto (South Western Townships) and the rest of the living settlements of South Africa, the backdrop of a journey taken by one named Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela of the Madiba clan of Xhosa.

The last time the world gathered in the magnitude of Madiba's funeral was at JFK's. Jack Kennedy had us looking at the moon. Of Irish origins, he fitted the blessing of "living heaven on earth." Now we see beyond the Transvaal that Mandela is strictly earthbound. He danced life in the Bantu earthiness of his ancestry, with compassion and grace. It will serve us well to be likewise.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published.

The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Preliminary injunction served its purpose**

The preliminary injunction I filed in the District Court served its purpose.

The purpose of my preliminary injunction is to prevent Eloy Inos from avoiding to pay pension to retirees who opted out. He was very firm in his position that “if [retirees] don’t want to join the settlement, there is nothing [he] can do. [He] cannot guarantee payment even if they decide to go to Finance to demand their checks. They

are not going to get a check. They can’t. They won’t.”

When opt out retirees were not paid their pension on Oct. 15, 2013, I immediately file a constitutional violation lawsuit and a preliminary injunction. Lo and behold! Eloy Inos wrote to the NMI Retirement Fund directing the Fund to pay opt-out retirees 75 percent of their pension. It took my preliminary injunction to force Eloy Inos to come to his senses not to ignore us 16 opt-out retirees.

Trashing the Constitution

It was reported here in the *Saipan Tribune* that Jesus Taisague’s motion to stop the unconstitutional pillaging of his retirement benefits by our government was denied. I’m sure that some precedence of law applied to the case that Jesus filed. But, again, we have been misled, lied to, and robbed. When pointed out that Taisague *only* lost 25 percent of *his money*, he asserted that nothing can stop the government from later electing to stop providing his retirement benefits. What is grossly misleading is that a *judge*, sworn to uphold the Constitution, said in response, “This is possible, to be sure.”

What about “Commonwealth Constitution: Article III Executive Branch Section 20: Retirement System. a) Membership in an employee retirement system of the Commonwealth shall constitute a contractual relationship. Accrued benefits of this system shall be neither diminished nor impaired.”

I guess the very *law* that created the Governor’s Office isn’t a *law* that can stop the governor from stealing retirees’ money. Nowhere

does Judge Gatewood say or imply the governor is breaking the CNMI Constitution. The very same Constitution and even the very section that created the office he now abuses!

Are we supposed to take this as the U.S. District Court judge tacitly accepts the fact that our government operates illegally, refuses to acknowledge the Constitution, continues to steal 25 percent of the retirees’ pensions, and that’s OK? Many don’t remember when the old Legislature building was burned down because the politicians were not listening to the people. Remember, because that also is a precedence.

If we don’t rally behind Jesus Taisague *right now* and help him defend our Constitution against the governor and all who take part in violating it, then we deserve the servitude we will get when the Emperor trashes the rest of our Constitution.

Michael Murphy
Capital Hill, Saipan

The blind Japanese

In a recent *Saipan Tribune* article Japan Consul Koji Hino asked for the CNMI’s support for Japan’s bid to host the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

“As you probably know, Tokyo was nominated as the venue for the Olympics in 2020. Until then we should do our utmost to achieve complete recovery from the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami. Otherwise Japanese government cannot receive the understanding and support from the participants and visitors from all over the world. I would therefore like to ask you again for your support and assistance.”

Once Mr. Hino’s head comes out of the sand, it should be slapped. The earthquake and the tsunami that occurred on March 11, 2011, are the least of it.

“The worst nuclear catastrophe in the history of mankind” continues to threaten our planet and much of the life on it. Even now the Pacific Ocean is dying, and the West Coast of American has been severely impacted by Cesium-137, plutonium, and other deadly isotopes. Children in both America and Japan are developing cancers. Many people have already died from radiation poisoning.

When the earthquake struck 1,000 days ago, three of the four reactors went into critical meltdown. They are still melting down, and their cores have gone into the ground, contaminating the water and the Pacific Ocean. A conservative estimate is that 300 tons of radioactive water pours into the Pacific each day. Most of the Pacific tuna is highly radioactive and a recent test showed that 18 out of 18 tuna were contaminated with radiation.

About 7,500,000 Bq/m3 of Strontium-90 was measured from groundwater issuing from Reactor 1. The sampling date was Sept. 11, 2013. There have been no further reports because the Japanese government will not allow them.

Reactor 4 has a cooling pool, some five stories high, which contains 1,310 spent fuel rods, which are still hot and highly radioactive. So far 20 have been removed, and these were rods which were

in good condition and fairly stable. However, the rest of the rods are damaged and the enormous tank is tipping. For TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) to begin to remove these rods is flirting with a monumental disaster; because if the rods should touch during the removal process—or otherwise become unstable—then there could be “a critical mass” that would release the radioactive equivalent of 14,000 Hiroshimas.

In the meantime, the Japanese Government has recently passed a law that effectively blacks out any honest reporting about the situation at Fukushima. In fact, if any Japanese reporter dares to report what is actually happening, he or she could be thrown in jail as a terrorist.

But the Japanese government, TEPCO, the Japanese and mainstream media all—like Mr. Hino—have their heads in the sand. Not only do they not want to know about the unfolding disaster, their main goal is to “save face.” They hope that if they just ignore the horrible disaster, it will simply go away. It will not. Regrettably, the worst is yet to come.

For the Japanese government to think that the 2020 Olympics will actually go on in Tokyo is lunacy. Seventy percent of Japan is contaminated now, in 2013. Reactors 1, 2, and 3 will continue to spew deadly radioactive poisons into the atmosphere for at least the next seven years, but probably more like 100 years. These meltdowns cannot be cooled, nor stopped. (Incidentally, Chernobyl is *still* in meltdown and that was 27 years ago). By 2020, most of Japan will be highly radioactive, even if the spent fuel rods in the R4 cooling tower remain stable.

To the parents of the 23 MHS students who intend to travel to Osaka as part of the “Bridge for Tomorrow” exchange program: Keep your kids here.

Russ Mason
Akgak, Saipan

bumps, but there at a misty distance was an island.

Just as I started meandering thoughts of the future of the islands, I heard a song by Lucinda Williams, “*I wanna watch the ocean bend the edges of the sun; I wanna get swallowed up in an ocean of love.*” But given the mess at home, I’d rather be “swallowed up in an ocean of peace” just for the sake of some purposeful and prayerful moments alone. Yes, together we’ve pined for some conscious leadership caught swimming in the filthy sea of “do-nothings.”

At dawn: As dawn was breaking, we inched out way out of some rough sleep the night before. A couple of issues were dripping from our ears like casino, taxes, deficit, debts, zero economic growth, high power bills and more coming; cost of goods spiking in the near-term, including gasoline.

Every time we turn our heads, the Grinch and Scrooge of Christ-

All opt-out retirees are now assured that we will continue receiving our pension and health insurance coverage as stipulated by the District Court that “...all evidence before the court indicates that [opt-out retirees] will continue to receive 75 percent of [their] pension payments and full health insurance coverage. ... The present possibility of the Commonwealth later electing to not pay [opt-out retirees] any retirement benefits is not likely.” It took for my preliminary injunction for Eloy Inos to pay opt-out retirees. Now the District Court finds it not necessary to approve my preliminary injunction.

All that remains now is for the District Court to ascertain if it is a constitutional violation to diminish and impair retirees’ pension. The court is the only proper venue to ascertain whether or not one’s constitutional right is being violated. I strongly believe that a diminution in our pension is a violation of our NMI Constitution, Article 3, Section 20a.

I hope Eloy Inos follows his boss (Governor Fitial) that he prefers to mediate than to litigate to avoid wasting taxpayer’s money defending their indefensible acts. God bless us all.

Jesus I. Taisague
Koblerville, Saipan

Thank you

The organizers of the 2nd Annual Saipan Candle Lighting Remembrance Program would like to thank all those that donated to, and supported, our event, including the Governor’s Office and the staff and management of the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, *Marianas Variety, Saipan Tribune*, Jillian Angeline and KSPN Channel 2, Tina Palacios and Sorensen Media Saipan, Larry, Kanani and Kui Lee for their wonderful music, Dental Care, Dr. Nelson Krum and Donna Krum, White Computer Services and Coconut Scanning Services, Thomas Lee A. Manglona II and the students of Mt. Carmel School for their invaluable assistance, Blossoms Floral, Whispering Palms School, Senator and Mrs. Paul A. Manglona, Herman’s Modern Bakery, iFashion Salon, the staff of Taro Sue Corp., John Fraser, Marcia Schultz, Lorna Arcega and family.

Over 50 children and siblings were honored with a candle and gentle memories, and another 10 attendees were there to honor their loved ones.

The program was held in conjunction with The Compassionate Friends’ (<http://www.compassionatefriends.org/home.aspx>) 17th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Service, which was held on Dec. 8, at 7pm local time, in countries around the world.

The program included three video presentations, painstakingly composed by Dr. Krum; they can be viewed on You Tube:

■ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XGuoFXyqB0> (with photos of Saipan)

■ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmudcfuLsOI>

■ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHtEeh5jLMs>

The Compassionate Friends is a national mutual assistance, self-help organization that offers friendship, understanding and support to family members who have experienced the death of a son, daughter, brother, sister, grandchild or friend, and helps others better assist grieving families. Our monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, at 6:30pm in the NMPASI conference room. Please contact me at 287-5337, or jilld@pticom.com if you are interested in further information.

Jill Derickson
Marpi, Saipan

ISSUES

From Page 10

Out in the real world, the need, pain, sorrow and joy is the same for everybody, regardless of your pigmentation or ethnicity. It’s your credentials and sense of mindfulness that matters. Why are we so engrossed on a least important issue?

Can the immature acronym NMD be opened to genealogy rather than racist ethnicity? It only feeds the ego but trashes your spiritual essence, *di ba?*

Navigating: I usually get goose bumps each time I take a trip to a certain beach. I’d quiz if our tethered ancestors were still fishing, disrupted by my presence. This trip, though, was special. No goose

mas would pass by winking that filthy sly smile saying, “You’re paying more for far less!” You take your calculator and burn your fingers in an exercise Einstein calls insanity: juggling the same figures hoping for different results.






At dusk: You quietly assess what else is coming down the pike that could bleed the family purse altogether. You now defer to divine providence for help, any help. You also resort to silent prayer that nothing catastrophic hits close to home that would derail your plans for Christmas.

You recall people that you love and their whereabouts, quizzing if they’re doing fine or what would they be doing on Christmas Eve so far away from home. Days of yore and the memorable happy times begin parading vividly into mind as you try to fall asleep wrapped in *Silent Night*.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲91 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▼80
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Kosrae	Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼79

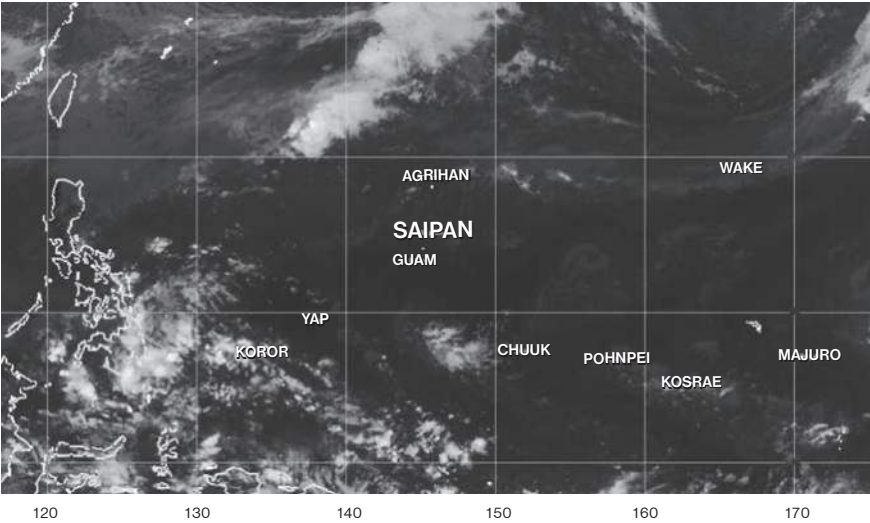
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼59
Beijing	Windy	▲46 ▼23
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼63
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲48 ▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲61 ▼37
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼52
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼71
New York	Rain	▲43 ▼34
Osaka	Rain	▲55 ▼42
Paris	Sunny	▲45 ▼32
Pusan	Windy	▲48 ▼35
Rome	Sunny	▲61 ▼42
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲35 ▼27
San Francisco	Sunny	▲52 ▼35
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲37 ▼28
Tokyo	Rain	▲62 ▼40
Washington, DC	Rain	▲42 ▼35

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
2:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
9:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N142E to 18N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and north of this boundary to 25N and beyond including Iwo To. Another cold front curves southwestward from 25N180 to near Wake Island at 19N169E then continues westward as a shear line to 17N160E to just east of the Marianas at 19N147E. Clouds and rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the front. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen along and up to 200 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough reaches northward from 3N130E to end northwest of Koror at 13N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Koror and westward between 4N and 9N from 130E to 136E. Trade-wind convergence east of the trough is causing more scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. This similar weather is well south and southeast of Yap within 120 miles of a line from 5N138E to EQ146E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Chuuk between 6N and 10N from 145E to 150E. A second trade-wind disturbance is creating scattered showers east of Majuro between 3N and 12N from 174E to 180 and beyond. Also isolated thunderstorms are present east of 176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:16 PM	1:01 AM
Thursday	1:59 PM	1:54 AM
Friday	2:42 PM	2:46 AM
Saturday	3:27 PM	3:37 AM
Sunday	4:13 PM	4:29 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR) DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 DZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Kilili: Shipping proposal could affect costs of goods in NMI

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) joined five other members of U.S. Congress in asking the Federal Maritime Commission to carefully review a proposed vessel sharing deal that could affect the costs of goods in Hawaii and other

Pacific territories such as the CNMI.

The three largest shipping companies in the world—Maersk Line, MSC, and CMA-CGM—announced the creation of a new vessel sharing agreement, the P3 Alliance.

Given its current makeup, the P3 Alliance will control 58 percent of vessels with great-

er than 10,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit capacity and 80 percent of vessels over 16,000 TEU.

The six U.S. Congress members—Sen. Mazie Hirono, Rep. Don Young, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen, American Samoa Delegate Eni F.H. Faleomavae-

ga, and Sablan—said they neither support nor oppose the P3 Alliance concept at this time.

“Yet, the State of Hawaii and the Pacific territories rely more heavily on ocean shipping for food, medicine, fuel, and other life-sustaining goods than perhaps any other region of these United States,” the lawmakers told Federal Maritime Com-

mission chair Mario Cordero in a Dec. 4 letter.

Along with the other Pacific area representatives who signed the letter to the FMC chairman, Sablan said he took no position on whether the commission should approve the proposed P3 Alliance.

“Together the combination would control 58 percent of

large, ocean-going cargo carriers. Pacific areas are particularly dependent on ocean shipping to provide basic commodities, and the Alliance could exert considerable influence on pricing and availability of goods. We have asked the commission to fully consider the effects of the proposed P3 Alliance,” Sablan said.

Pacific Fleet chief visits Tinian’s atomic bomb pits



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider, Adm. Harry Harris, and Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz have their picture taken at the atomic bomb pits area of North Field, Tinian.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Office of the Tinian Mayor chief of staff Don Farrell, Capt. Adrian Evangelista, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and Tinian CPA ports manager Joseph Mendiola at the West Tinian International Airport.

Sony conducts blogger tour on Saipan, Tinian

Sony camera company recently conducted a blogger familiarization tour of the Northern Mariana Islands to bring awareness about its new cameras RX1R and RX100II to this tropical beach destination.

Sixteen bloggers from Korea visited Saipan and Tinian on Nov. 22-25, 2013.

“Our tieup with Sony on this FAM tour is a fortuitous opportunity to increase awareness of the Northern Mariana Islands in cooperative partnership with an internationally-recognized consumer brand,” said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. “We are already receiving wide exposure from the tour through these bloggers’ pages and Sony’s SNS tools.”

A number scenic and historic sites in the Northern Marianas

were photographed by the bloggers. On Saipan the group visited Banzai Cliff, Grotto, Suicide Cliff, the Korean Peace Memorial, Last Command Post, Kalabera Cave, Jeffrey’s Beach, Managaha, Mt. Tapochau, Micro Beach, American Memorial Park, Forbidden Island, Ladder Beach, Obyan Beach, Mt. Carmel Cathedral, downtown Garapan, DFS Galleria, and SandCastle Saipan.

The restaurants visited were Shenanigan’s, Round Two, Furusato, and Coffee Care.

On Tinian, the group visited the Blow Hole, Taga Beach, Tachogna Beach, Carolinas Nature Trail, Ushi Cross Point, Broadway, House of Taga, Long Beach, and Chulu Beach. Restaurants visited were JC Café and Monster Pizza.

Lodging was provided Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mariana Resort & Spa, Saipan World Resort, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

TINIAN—Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider played host to Adm. Harry Harris, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet, during the latter’s visit to the atomic bomb pits on North Field yesterday afternoon. Harris was accompanied by Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commanding officer of Joint Region Marianas.

In the morning, Dela Cruz, Tinian CPA ports manager Joseph Mendiola, and Hofschneider welcomed home Marine Corps Capt. Adrian Evangelista, who is participating in the ongoing Forager Fury II exercise on the island.

Joining them in welcoming Evangelista to his home island was the pilot’s mother and father, Evelyn and Antonio Evangelista. Also greeting the Tinian high school graduate were Attorney General Joey San Nicholas, Anthony Hofschneider Aguon, the Lt. Governor’s chief of staff, and Greg Cing, newly appointed MIMC coordinator, all also Tinian High School graduates. **(PR)**

According to the most recent exit survey, most major markets cited “nature/scenic attractions” as the No. 1 or No. 2 top activities visitors would like to see more of in the Northern Marianas. **(MVA)**

Rota youth opens online photography business

By **THOMAS MANGLONA II**
CORRESPONDENT

Rota High School graduate Robert Mendiola first showed an interest in technology and photography 11 years ago as an elementary school student at the southern island. Two years later, in 8th grade, Robert bought his first point-and-shoot camera, kindling a passion for taking photos of almost anything that caught his attention.

Mendiola, now 19 years old, has transformed that passion into a fledgling business, an online photography studio called “Robert’s Photography,” which can be accessed at www.robstersphotography.com.

Mendiola, who still resides on Rota, is currently studying online to earn his associate degree in Computer Information Systems at Penn Foster College.

“I started photography as hobby when I was in middle school and I was using point-and-shoot cameras. And then on the summer before my senior year in high school I bought a DSLR camera, and then after my 18th birthday I started my photography business.”

From taking photos of Rota’s natural beauty as a child to organizing graduation picture takings for his high school, Mendiola



Mendiola

challenged himself after graduating from high school to create his own photography.

Mendiola, who graduated earlier this year in June from Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School, shared that all of his professional photography equipment such as lights, cameras, and tripods were bought with money donated by family members and from his summer job at the Rota Airport.

Mendiola uses a Canon EOS 600D and specializes in lifestyle and wedding photography.

People interested in his photography services can find photo packages ranging from \$8 wallet size photos to \$175 for a one-hour photo session. This young Rota resident has already had 80 customers purchase photo packages from his online website.

When asked what prompted him to create his business, he said: “I am inspired by people. I’m inspired by photos that tell stories, real stories. As a lifestyle photographer, my goal is to capture a person’s story. My mission is to give them a session as unique as they are by capturing them in their element.”

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy, happy, happy 3rd birthday to Miyoko Mae! May you have a huggar-

ific day! May you have fun and many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings come from Mitsue Nevaeh.



Happy birthday to our goddaughters Tessa Masga and Miyoko Masga Sugiyama! May the Lord above bless you both on your special day

and with many more birthdays and wishes to come. Love always, Niña, Niño Eric and baby Izaiah. Greetings also come from Mitsue Nevaeh.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DCCA/AGING-025

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2013
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“CONGREGATE MEAL AND HOME MEAL DELIVERY FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS - OFFICE ON AGING”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST PUBLIC NOTICE RE-SCHEDULING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has re-scheduled the continuation of the November 21, 2013 MPLT Trustees meeting to Thursday, December 12, 2013 beginning 5:30pm at the MPLT office at 1222 Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

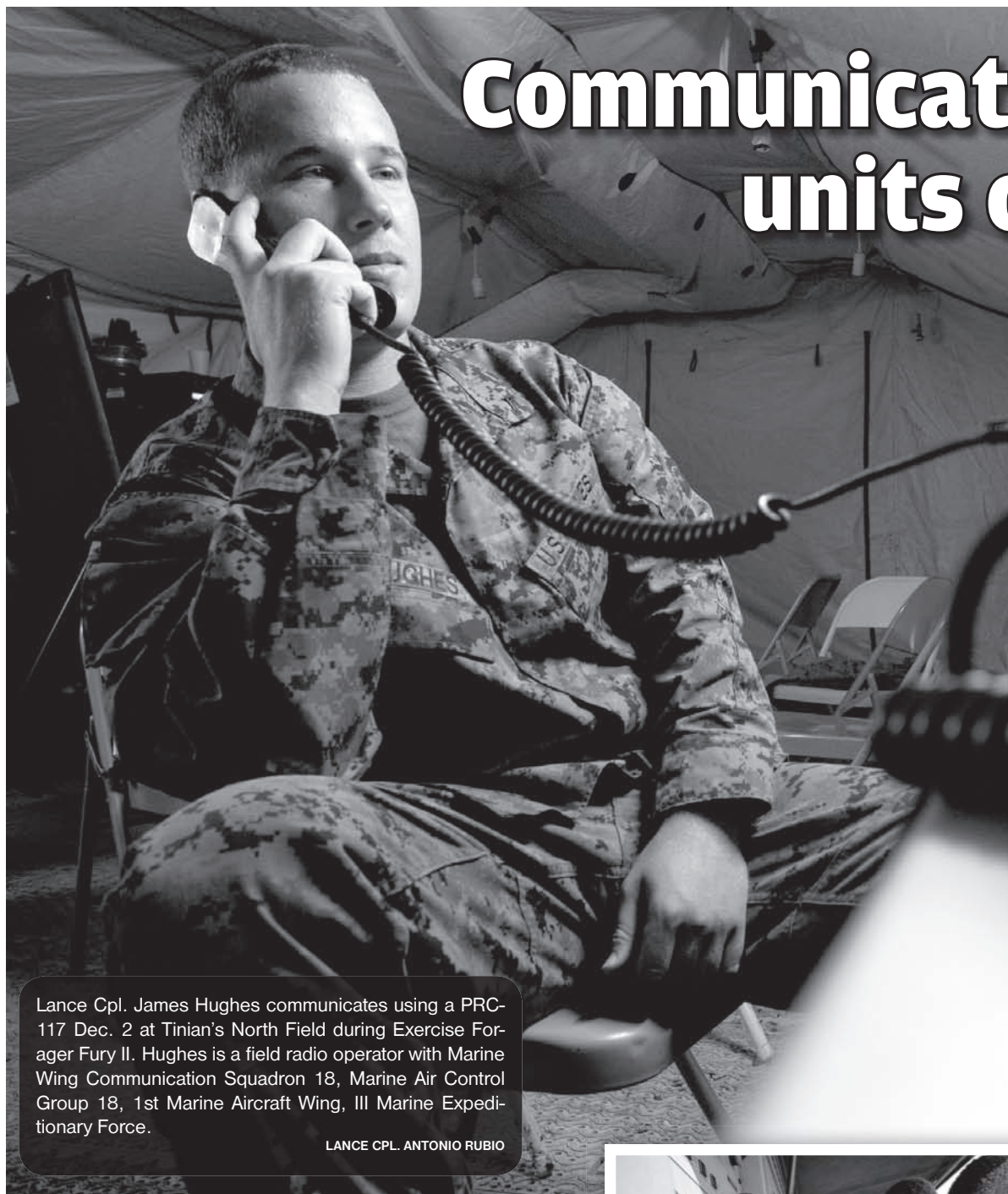
- I PRELIMINARIES**
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes
- II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
- III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
 - Investment Consultant Report
 - Flash Report
 - Alternative Investment (MLP)
 - Board Consultant
 - Financial Report
 - CHCC - LOC Monitoring
- IV LEGAL MATTERS**
 - Legal Counsel Report
 - NMHC Home Loan - BOS
 - DPL issues
- V OLD BUSINESS**
 - Supplemental Home Investment Program (SHIP)
 - FY 2012 Audit
- VI COMMUNICATIONS**
- VII NEW BUSINESS**
- VIII MISCELLANEOUS**
- IX ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

Communication Marines keep units connected at FF II



Lance Cpl. James Hughes communicates using a PRC-117 Dec. 2 at Tinian's North Field during Exercise Forager Fury II. Hughes is a field radio operator with Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO



LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

These multiple pieces of equipment are used to communicate with the various sites during Exercise Forager Fury II Dec. 2 at Tinian's North Field. FF II is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment.

By LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—

Communication Marines will provide communication at Tinian's North and West Field to increase operational proficiency during Exercise Forager Fury II.

The series of exercises, which Marine Aircraft Group-12 is conducting in the Mariana Islands, focuses on refining core skills within the squadrons and MAG-12.

This in turn prepares them to function as an integrated air unit able to perform a wide range of missions. The communication

Marines are with Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"What we're doing is providing the backbone for communication services for the tenant units here participating in [Forager Fury] II," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert Spencer, detachment staff noncommissioned officer in charge with MWCS-18. "Even though we're all [communication] Marines, there is a specific functional area within their [military operational specialty] that they work in, but the exercise [on] Tinian requires these Marines to work as a team



LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

Lance Cpls. Sterling Meriweather, left, and Montrell Martin Jr. conduct a maintenance test on the wireless point-to-point link Dec. 2 at Tinian's North Field during Exercise Forager Fury II to ensure the equipment is running properly. Meriweather and Martin are ground mobile forces communication operators with Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

together to get the mission accomplished."

Marines established a tactical elevated antenna mass antenna that can extend to 112 feet high and takes a lot coordination to set up in one piece safely.

"We have a variety of communication equipment," said Lance Cpl. James Hughes, field radio operator with MWCS-18. "Our equipment brings the main feed, providing communications outbound from the camp. Capabilities include linking via-satellite from different locations to different locations."

Different settings use different networks that send frequencies that will provide commu-

nication to Tinian's North and West Field to increase proficiency in exercise Forager Fury II.

"We have certain networks that have to be established when arrive at a new location so these measures taken are necessary," said Staff Sgt. Kelly Muszall, maintenance chief with MWCS-18.

Without communication, knowledge of associates' status would cease, hindering the Marines' ability to complete the mission.

"About 40 days ago, we brought in 30 Marines from different areas of [communications] in order to support this mission," said Spencer. "And although we've had setbacks in establishing communication services, through the resourcefulness and diligence of our Marines we've been able to succeed, successfully provide coordinated communications for Forager Fury II."

UOG Field House gets 'all clear' after bomb threat

GUAM—Early yesterday morning, the University of Guam Field House received a phone call with a bomb threat. UOG personnel and the Guam Police Department responded quickly, and the UOG Field House received an "all clear" from GPD at 9:45am.

The Field House reopened shortly thereafter and normal operations resumed. (UOG)

Pacific Fleet Master Chief visits Guam, meets with sailors

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Marco Ramirez visited sailors in Guam as he stopped by several Navy commands on island on Nov. 25-27.

Ramirez, who is U.S. Pacific Fleet's 16th fleet master chief after taking the position in May, said it was important for him to meet the junior and senior enlisted personnel within the Pacific area of responsibility.

"Guam is very special to me," he said. "I think it's very strategic and I really want to enhance the recruitment of people coming to Guam because it's a beautiful place to be and you offer so much here."

Ramirez focused on sharing the priorities of U.S. Pacific

Fleet Commander Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., who took command in October.

"We want them to know that sailors, and their families and the civilian personnel that we have are very important to the Pacific Fleet and the mission, that we think about them and that we count on them," he said. "Part of that is being ready, and readiness means being ready to fight tonight, not tomorrow, but tonight."

Ramirez explained that not only do sailors need to understand what they are doing to support the Navy, but their Navy commands must be properly manned, its personnel must be trained and they should have the equipment

they need. Eliminating sexual assault was another topic Ramirez addressed, saying that it would not be tolerated.

Joint Region Marianas Command Master Chief Gregory Vidaurri said that having Ramirez familiarize himself with Guam is a benefit because Ramirez represents all active-duty sailors within the Pacific area of responsibility.

"My hope is that he comes away from this knowing that we have a professional, dedicated and highly motivated team of sailors and Marines on Guam," he said. "I like being able to showcase what we have to offer here."

Ramirez toured U.S. Naval Base Guam and met with

chiefs from the base and tenant commands such as Coastal Riverine Group 1 Detachment Guam, Commander Submarine Squadron 15, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, Naval Airborne Weapons Maintenance Unit 1, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam and the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable*.

Yeoman 1st Class Shawn Alvarez, who was recently selected as the Regional Senior Sailor of the Year, was one of several sailors who spoke with Ramirez.

"When someone of that caliber stops by, even to say 'hi' or

shake a junior sailor's hand, it's motivating because you get to see where they're coming from, and you get to listen to the knowledge that they have of what's going on in the Navy," he said.

Seaman Philip Godfrey, of NBG, said it was a great opportunity to meet a senior-ranking sailor and associate a well-known title with an actual person.

"It was nice to see your chain of command face to face," he said. "Some people may feel disconnected from the people who run the biggest Navy in the world, but when [leadership] comes down here it gives you a connection to see the bigger picture." (PR)

HSC-25 Detachments 1, 6 return from deployment



Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 are welcomed home by their families during the detachment's homecoming at Andersen Air Force Base Dec. 9.

SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS



A child waves a U.S. flag while waiting for his father during a homecoming ceremony for Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 sailors at Andersen Air Force Base on Dec. 9.

SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS



Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Jerome Acquajameson, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6, embraces his family during the detachment's homecoming at Andersen Air Force Base on Dec. 9.

SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS



Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 are welcomed home by shipmates during the detachment's homecoming at Andersen Air Force Base Dec. 9.

SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS



Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Thomas Ridgway, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6, holds his daughter during the detachment's homecoming at Andersen Air Force Base on Dec. 9.

SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS



Children await the arrival of their father during a homecoming ceremony for Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Det. 6 Sailors at Andersen Air Force Base Dec. 9.

SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS

By **SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS**
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE—U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachments 1 and 6 returned to Guam on Monday, Dec. 9, after completing a seven-month and nine-month deployment, respectively.

Detachment 1 completed their deployment on board USNS *Amelia Earheart* and USNS *Charles Drew*, where they supported the George Washington Strike Group, Command Task Force 70 and Destroyer Squadron 15. Detachment 1 moved a total of 6.4 million lbs of cargo and 121 passengers during fiscal year 2013.

"Detachment 1 came home with the most qualifications I have ever seen in my career," said Cmdr. Gregory Leland, HSC-25 commanding officer. "These detachments were some of the most successful detachments I have ever seen."

Both detachments supported operations throughout the Pacific. Along with supporting Australian naval vessels during combined Exercise Talisman Saber 2013, the detachments supported Operation *Damayan*—a U.S. humanitarian aid and disaster relief effort to support the Philippines in the wake of the devastating effects of Super typhoon Haiyan.

"While on *Charles Drew*, we helped out in Tacloban by providing food stores, water, and fuel," said Lt. James Aguirre, HSC-25 Detachment 1 pilot. "We were the first ship on scene, and as soon as we got there, we

started moving gallons of water to shore. The following days, we ran water to outlying areas where people had signs on the top of their houses. We ran supplies all over the place and helped as best we could."

During Detachment 6's nine-month deployment aboard USS *Bonhomme Richard*, the crew supported 7th Fleet in the Western Pacific area of responsibility. The sailors flew more than 1,300 hours, moved 2.5 million lbs of cargo and transferred 959 passengers. In addition, they also conducted six medical evacuations and four searches resulting in one rescue.

"We had a lot of challenges, one of them being away from the family," said Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Thomas Ridgway. "We got bounced all over the place and had the opportunity to do a lot of great things, but it's amazing to be back with my family, so I'm looking forward to spending time with them."

With the return of Detachment 6, the next rotation of aircrews deployed on Dec. 2 to continue the mission of providing logistical support, search-and-rescue capabilities, and humanitarian assistance in the Pacific.

"I want to thank the detachment that we sent off to relieve the team from the *Bonhomme Richard*," Leland said. "I also want to thank the spouse groups, the family readiness folks, and ombudsmen who help us keep the balance in the families back home while the detachments are fighting a good fight. We look forward to continuing the successful trend in the near future."



Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Kevin Norris, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6, kisses his son during the detachment's homecoming at Andersen Air Force Base on Dec. 9.

SENIOR AIRMAN MARIANIQUE SANTOS

Business

US household wealth reaches a record high of \$77 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP)—A surging stock market and a steady recovery in home prices drove Americans' wealth to a record last summer.

The nation's wealth rose 2.6 percent from July through September to \$77.3 trillion, the Federal Reserve said Monday. Household wealth has been rising gradually since bottoming at \$57.2 trillion in 2008. Early this year, America finally regained all the wealth it had lost to the Great Recession.

Rising personal wealth has been a pillar of the slow but steady U.S. economic recovery and could continue to boost the economy next year. When Americans feel richer, they typically spend more and fuel economic growth.

Household wealth, or net worth, reflects the value of

homes, stocks, bank accounts and other assets minus mortgages, credit cards and other debts.

From July through September, rising stock prices boosted Americans' net worth by \$917 billion. Higher home values added \$428 billion more.

The Fed's figures don't go beyond September. But stock prices have continued to rise since last quarter ended, which means household wealth has, too. Since Oct. 1, the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has risen nearly 8 percent. Home prices in many areas have continued to rise, though more slowly than they did earlier in the year.

The Fed's report also showed that Americans are willing to borrow more. This suggests that many are growing more confident in their jobs and in the

broader economy.

When adjusted for inflation, net worth remains about 1 percent below its pre-recession peak. But the gains in stock and home prices during the current October-December quarter will likely lift inflation-adjusted household wealth to a record.

Still, the gains haven't been equally distributed. The wealthiest 10 percent of U.S. households own about 80 percent of stocks. And home ownership has declined since the recession, particularly among lower-income Americans.

Monday's report also showed that total mortgage debt rose 0.9 percent from the previous quarter. It was the first such increase since early 2009. The rise reflects rising home sales and fewer mortgage defaults, an encouraging sign.

New American Airlines emerges as deal closes

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—American Airlines emerged from bankruptcy protection and US Airways culminated its long pursuit of a merger partner as the two completed their deal Monday to create the world's biggest airline.

It's the latest in a series of

mergers that will leave four airlines controlling more than 80 percent of the U.S. air-travel market. With less competition, the airlines have successfully limited the number of seats, boosting prices and returning to profitability.

American's old parent, AMR

Corp., is gone, replaced by the new American Airlines Group Inc. CEO Doug Parker remotely rang the opening bell of the Nasdaq Stock Market, flanked on stage by executives and labor leaders of both airlines and in front of a crowd of cheering employees.

It's new manager's role to curb problem employee

QUESTION: As a new supervisor, I don't know what to do about one of my former co-workers. "Dan" is a loudmouth braggart who always tries to be the center of attention. He inserts himself into every conversation and interrupts people while they are trying to work.

To make it worse, Dan is lazy and incompetent. He repeatedly makes mistakes and never attempts to correct them. Despite being extremely forgetful, he refuses to write down instructions. I don't know why he's still here, because people have complained about him for years.

Now that I'm in charge, I'm sure the group expects me to do something about Dan, so I don't want to let them down. At the same time, however, I'm afraid to make waves because I'm the newest member of the management team. How should I handle this?

ANSWER: Despite the history of complaints, apparently no one has had the gumption to confront Dan's performance problems. Your predecessor took the easy way out and ignored these deficiencies, so kudos to you for at least recognizing the need to address them.

However, I'm puzzled by your fear that taking such a step would be viewed as "making waves." Unless your organiza-

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



tion has an exceptionally wimpy management culture, tackling a difficult performance issue should actually enhance your reputation as a savvy supervisor.

The first step in any corrective action process is to obtain backing from above, so you will need to agree with your boss on a plan for Dan. Since the previous supervisor may not have shared this information, start by explaining exactly how Dan is creating a business problem.

For example: "You may not be aware of this, but Dan has been hurting our group's performance for quite a while. He refuses to correct his frequent errors, and his disruptive behavior is distracting to other team members. I would really appreciate your support in resolving this issue."

Because Dan has more experience being a problem than you have being a manager, consider asking your boss to sit in on the initial discussion with him. Getting the attention of a recalcitrant employee frequently requires some additional firepower.

Q: My new boss lacks the manners and finesse typically expected of an executive. He dresses like a gangster, talks like a thug, and constantly gets phone calls from family members. This is not about envy, because I have no interest in his job. I've simply never seen a manager act like this, and I'm not sure how to deal with this type of person.

A: Considering that this guy is your boss, his personal peculiarities are really not your concern. His own manager is the one who must determine whether his "manners and finesse" are appropriate for his position. Given his recent promotion, however, management apparently feels that his abilities outweigh any superficial idiosyncrasies.

So instead of continuing to downgrade your manager on style points, concentrate on getting this important relationship off to a good start. If he begins to sense your scornful attitude, your own future might not look too bright.

Nation

Obama gets worst ratings of his presidency, poll finds

By DAVID LIGHTMAN
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—The American public is unusually pessimistic about the direction of the country and increasingly fed up with Washington gridlock, a sour mood reflected in the worst disapproval ratings for President Barack Obama since he took office nearly five years ago.

People give elected officials unusually low grades—31 percent rated them "D" and 38 percent gave them an "F," according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll.

"The lack of confidence in Washington to right itself is showing up," said Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion in New York.

Obama's disapproval rating climbed to 53 percent—the worst in 29 polls since he took office in January 2009—while 43 percent approved of his job performance. The disapproval number was up sharply from the 47 percent reading in September and tops the previous high of 52 percent in September 2011.

Obama retained strong support among Democrats—77-18 percent approval—and disdain from Republicans—90-8 percent disapproval. Independents disapproved 56 percent to 41 percent.

Obama's personal ratings were also down. By 52 percent to 46 percent, people had an unfavorable impression of him, the first time since November 2011 the negative number was higher. The unfavorable number was also the worst he has endured.

Obama in recent weeks has been battered by turmoil over his health care program. The highly touted website where people could sign up for coverage proved to be a dysfunctional embarrassment, and Obama had to backtrack from his assertion that people could keep their plans if they wanted.

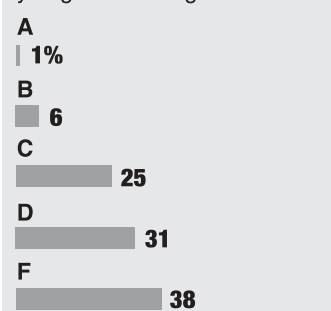
Congress fared even worse. By 74 percent to 22 percent, voters disapprove of the Republicans' performance, the highest since the question was first asked in April 2011. Republicans control the House of Representatives and 45 of the Senate's 100 seats.

People soured on Democrats, too. Sixty-four percent disapproved of congressional Democrats, who control the Senate.

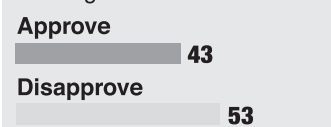
Failing grades for Washington

The public is fed up with Washington gridlock and gives low grades to elected officials, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll.

• In general, what grade would you give Washington officials?

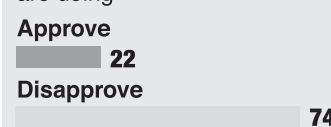


• Job President Barack Obama is doing



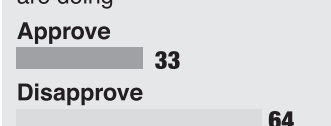
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• Job Republicans in Congress are doing



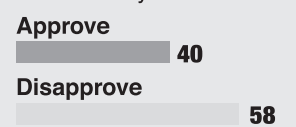
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• Job Democrats in Congress are doing



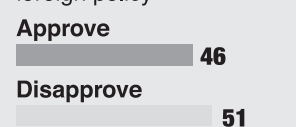
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• How Obama is handling the economy



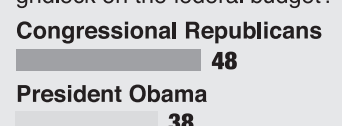
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• How Obama is handling foreign policy



Unsure: 4

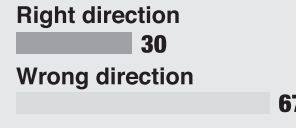
• Who do you blame more for gridlock on the federal budget?



Both

Unsure: 3

• In general, things in this country are going in the:



Unsure: 4

Source: McClatchy-Marist poll Dec. 3-5, 2013, of 988 registered voters; margin of error: +/-3.1 percentage points. Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

Both Republican and Democratic disapproval numbers were up sharply from the last poll in July.

The numbers show that "the unsures have cast their vote with the negatives," Miringoff said.

The key reason for the glum ratings is the economy. Though indicators suggest a healthy rebound, people aren't feeling it. Instead, said Miringoff, the two Washington stories that have dominated headlines in recent months were the 16-day October government shutdown and the health care chaos.

That helped create pessimism that found two-thirds seeing things going in the wrong direction, while 30 percent felt matters were heading in the right direction.

Democrats were more optimistic, with the right-wrong direction split 57 percent to 40 percent. Republicans overwhelmingly saw the country moving the wrong way—95 percent to 4 percent—and independents saw matters heading in the wrong direction, 69 percent to 26 percent.

The federal budget drama is the most obvious symbol of Washington inertia. Lawmakers have wrangled all year, passing stopgaps after extended, often bitter debate. Negotiators this week are said to be close on a deal that will

avoid another shutdown when money again runs out Jan. 15.

Obama gets low marks for his handling of the economy. Fifty-eight percent disapproved of how he's dealing with it, while 40 percent approved.

More people blame Republicans for the budget mess—48 percent said it's their fault while 38 percent named Obama.

Obama suffered in two other areas where he had shown some strength, foreign policy and personal appeal.

The latest poll was conducted after the administration announced a pact with Iran that eases some sanctions on that country, in exchange for some limits on Iran's nuclear program.

That plan has won little congressional support, as lawmakers from both parties have expressed doubts. Forty-six percent approved of Obama's handling of foreign policy, while 51 percent did not.

Voters have mixed views about how all this will translate in next year's elections. Equal numbers—43 percent—said they would vote for a Republican or a Democratic candidate. Independents preferred Republicans, 41 percent to 34 percent, while moderates favored Democrats, 49 percent to 35 percent.

Asia

Philippine govt, rebels sign power-sharing accord

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials have signed a power-sharing accord with the country's largest Muslim rebel group and expect to sign a final peace pact with the insurgents next month to end a decadeslong rebellion in the volatile south.

The accord, which outlines the powers of a Muslim autonomous government in a region to be called Bangsamoro, was signed Sunday by negotiators for the government and the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Malaysia, which has been brokering the

talks, officials said Monday.

The accord is the third of four proposed pacts that are to constitute a final peace agreement between the government and the Moro guerrillas. The insurgents have been fighting for self-rule for minority Muslims in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation in an insurgency that has left thousands of combatants and civilians dead and held back progress in some of the country's poorest regions.

President Benigno Aquino III said the remaining accord to be tackled next month, involving

rebel disarmament, is expected to be difficult because it entails the insurgents relinquishing their arms.

"This is a heavy and contentious issue for them because if they undertake this act, it would mean an extreme demonstration of their trust to our government and country," Aquino told reporters.

The power-sharing accord would allow minority Muslims to rule a more powerful autonomous region through a 50-member assembly to be led by a chief minister. The Philippine government would retain authority over areas such as defense,

foreign and monetary policy, postal service and immigration, according to a copy of the pact.

The autonomous government would wield exclusive power over such areas as agriculture, trade, tourism and education, and could contract loans and establish free ports, it said.

The United States and other governments have backed the peace talks, hoping they will turn battlefields into prosperous communities and economic growth hubs instead of breeding grounds for Muslim extremists who could create trouble in the

country and elsewhere.

However, at least three smaller armed groups oppose the current peace talks. Moro rebels from one group took scores of hostages in September and occupied coastal communities in southern Zamboanga city in a bloody siege they launched after accusing the government of reneging on its commitments under a 1996 peace pact.

Thousands of troops ended the weeklong uprising with a major offensive that killed more than 200 people, most of them insurgents.

While the talks were under-

way in Malaysia last week, a group of Muslim rebels stormed a police station in the southern Philippines, briefly held a city police chief hostage and shot and killed a civilian in an apparent attempt to release some detained comrades.

Government negotiator Miriam Coronel-Ferrer said cease-fire officials were dealing with the incident, which underscored the difficulty of forging peace in the country.

"We have always said that the road ahead is going to be rough," she said.

Purge sends chilling message to NKorea's elite

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—While the rest of North Korea's top brass leaped to their feet before Kim Jong Un, clapping wildly in a requisite show of respect at high-level meetings, his uncle, Jang Song Thaek, often seemed nonchalant, at times even bored. Once considered the force behind the young leader, he displayed a bold insouciance that seemed calculated to show he was beyond reach.

So by purging his own uncle, Kim has delivered a more chilling message: No one is beyond reach, not even family.

Jang's fall from grace, accompanied by allegations from corruption to womanizing and capped by his dramatic arrest at a party meeting Sunday, has no doubt spooked Pyongyang's elite. It also suggests Kim is still trying to consolidate the power he inherited from his father two years ago.

This is far from Kim's first purge. Several defense ministers and army chiefs have been replaced as the Workers' Party has asserted control over the military after 17 years of military-first rule under late leader Kim Jong Il.

But it is the ouster of Jang,



People watch a TV news program at Seoul Railway Station, South Korea, Monday, Dec. 9, 2013 showing Jang Song Thaek, center, uncle of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, being grabbed during an emergency

who had been considered North Korea's second-most-powerful figure, that sends the strongest signal to anyone seeking to challenge Kim Jong Un.

Jang, 67, had occupied a privileged and yet precarious spot within the inner circle. He is the husband of Kim Kyong Hui, the only daughter of late President

Kim Il Sung, younger sister to Kim Jong Il and aunt to Kim Jong Un.

Jang was seen as a regent figure as Kim Jong Un was being groomed to succeed his father. He rose in party and military ranks alongside his baby-faced nephew, often dressed in a trim white general's uniform and standing with-

in arm's length of Kim on field visits and at state events.

In 2012, he led a business delegation to China to discuss the construction of special economic zones. He also served as chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Commission, which oversees many of Kim

Jong Un's pet projects.

Last week, South Korea's spy agency gave the first public word that Jang may have been dismissed. It said he had not been seen publicly in weeks and his two closest confidants executed.

North Korean state media has not confirmed the executions, but on Monday it made vividly clear that Jang is out. Images aired on state TV showed him being stripped of all his titles at Sunday's party meeting led by Kim. Premier Pak Pong Ju was in tears as he denounced his longtime friend.

This time, there was no white general's uniform: Jang was dressed in civilian wear and sitting in the audience, not with the rest of the leadership. Party members watched impassively, barely flinching or raising an eyebrow, as two burly men grabbed Jang.

State media laid out a laundry list of Jang's alleged transgressions, including instigating party dissent and squandering party funds on drugs, gambling

30 years for man who let others have sex with son

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—An Australian man has been sentenced to 30 years in prison after authorities say he and his partner allowed at least eight others to have sex with their young adopted son for money.

The 36-year-old man is a resident of Queensland and is not being identified by The Associated Press to protect his son's identity. The man pleaded guilty in February to conspiracy to sexually exploit a child and to conspiracy to possess child pornography and was sentenced Monday by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker, the Indianapolis Star reported.

His partner, a 42-year-old American who had been living in Australia, was sentenced in June to the maximum 40-year sentence. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to sexually exploit a child.

According to court documents, the two men became ro-

and women. He was branded "depraved" for living a "capitalist" lifestyle.

North Koreans sometimes "disappear" for re-education and re-emerge later, and Jang has been purged before. He dropped out of sight for a few years in the mid-2000s, reportedly for going too far with fledgling economic reforms under Kim Jong Il. But Monday's pillorying was unprecedented, and a startling show for a regime that typically keeps its internal politics secret.

Privately, few among North Korea's elite would be shocked by Jang's alleged behavior in "back parlors of deluxe restaurants," as described in state media. Korea has a rich tradition of aristocratic misbehavior, and that culture of "wining and dining," preferably with a pretty woman who is not your wife pouring your drinks, persists in both South and North Korea even today.

But Monday's announcement in state media also hinted that Jang was trying to challenge the party status quo. It said he committed anti-party, counterrevolutionary acts and "pretended to uphold the party and leader" while double-dealing behind the scenes.

mantically involved in the late 1990s and began trying to adopt an infant boy.

The men had been living with the boy in California, where they were able to use falsified records to legalize an adoption, according to court records obtained by The Associated Press. Court documents also said the men eventually paid \$8,000 to adopt the boy from a woman whose husband had abandoned her.

The boy was between the ages of 2 and 6 when at least eight men had sex with him.

The men were arrested last year in Los Angeles.

U.S. Attorney Joe Hogsett says the case was prosecuted in the U.S. District Court in Indianapolis because images of the sex acts involving the young boy were found on the computer of an Anderson man in a larger child exploitation and pornography investigation.

Singapore leader calls for restraint after riot

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore's prime minister urged citizens not to react negatively toward migrant workers on Monday following the first rioting in 40 years in the wealthy state, which prides itself on being an island of calm in an often chaotic region.

The disorder involved mostly Indian guest workers and broke out in the Little India district on Sunday night after an Indian worker was hit and killed by a bus driven by a Singaporean. Cars were torched and eighteen people were injured as crowds hurled rocks at authorities.

It followed recent signs of tensions between the country's citizens and the growing numbers of migrant workers, who have largely built the country's

impressive skyline, transport infrastructure and other facilities. About a quarter of the country's 5.4 million people are transient workers, compared to a tenth in 1990, according to government statistics.

In a posting on his Facebook page, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong reminded Singaporeans that "the vast majority of foreign workers here obey our laws. We must not let this bad incident tarnish our views of workers here. Nor should we condone hateful or xenophobic comments, especially online."

Liberal commentators said the riot strengthened their calls for better treatment of the workers.

"The inequality that has taken root in Singapore has dire con-

sequences and they are beginning to show," said Roy Ngerng, a blogger on social issues. "Perhaps, it is to be expected that when we pay such (a) pittance ... to people who have helped build our country—our buildings and roads—and yet expect them to toil in the most tiresome conditions."

Little India attracts thousands of South Asia workers on Sundays, when they eat, shop and drink together.

Police said Indian citizens comprised 24 of the 27 people arrested so far, while two others were Bangladeshis and another was a person of undisclosed origin with Singaporean permanent residency status. Rioting in Singapore can be punished by

seven years in prison and whipping with a rattan cane.

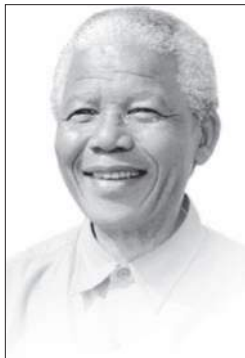
One Cabinet minister suggested that liquor licenses should be more tightly restricted in Little India.

Transport Minister Lui Tuck Yew, whose constituency includes Little India, said it was "quite evident ... alcohol could have been a contributory factor" based on his observation of some of those arrested, The Straits Times newspaper reported.

Sunday night's incident was considered Singapore's worst outbreak of public violence since race riots in 1964 involving the ethnic Chinese majority and Malay minority left a total of 36 people dead that year.

World

Obama in South Africa for Mandela memorial service

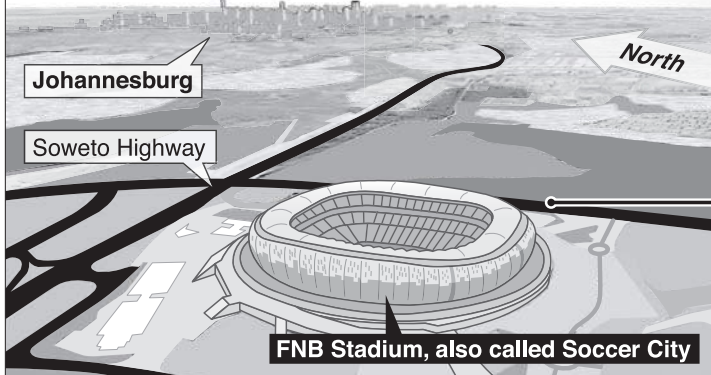


Honoring Mandela

Millions of people across South Africa and around the world are paying tribute to Nelson Mandela, who died Dec. 5. Official observances will include a memorial service at a soccer stadium, a series of public viewings and a private burial. Highlights of the 10-day mourning:

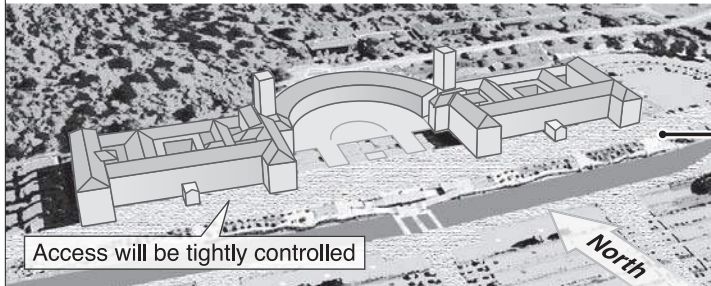
Dec. 10

Memorial service, Soccer City, Johannesburg



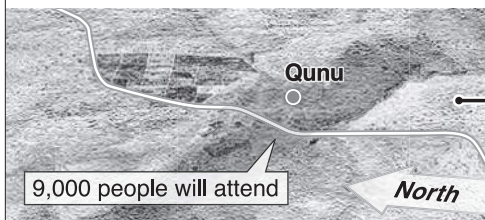
Dec. 11-13

Viewing, Union Buildings, Pretoria



Dec. 15

Burial, Qunu



National memorial service will be held Dec. 10 at FNB Stadium — also known as Soccer City — in the Soweto district of Johannesburg; Mandela made his last public appearance here at the 2010 World Cup final

Foreign dignitaries

More than 90 heads of state, government and foreign dignitaries are attending the memorial service, including U.S. President Barack Obama and three former presidents*

*As of Monday, Dec. 9

- Pretoria is the executive capital; Mandela's body will lie in state at the Union Buildings, Dec. 11-13
- Power was handed to Mandela here after the 1994 election
- The coffin will travel from a military hospital to the Union Buildings and back each day, offering public chances to bid farewell
- Large video screens will be placed in locations around the country and will televise major events

Source: South Africa Government, AP, The Guardian, Los Angeles Times, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Robert Dorrell and Pat Carr © 2013 MCT

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—President Barack Obama opened a day of remembrance and celebration Tuesday for his personal hero Nelson Mandela, arriving in South Africa for a memorial service honoring the anti-apartheid icon who died last week at age 95.

Air Force One touched down at a military base near Johannesburg on a rainy morning. Joining Obama on the 16-hour trip from Washington was first lady Michelle Obama, former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter were also scheduled to attend the memorial service, but traveled to South Africa separately.

The Obamas, the Bushes and Mrs. Clinton departed the front steps of the presidential plane together, a rare grouping of a current, former and possibly future president.

Obama will be among the speakers at Tuesday's memorial, joining tens of thousands of South Africans and dozens of dignitaries at the outdoor stadium in Johannesburg. A singing, joyous crowd was filling the stadium early Tuesday morning despite the rainy conditions.

White House aides said Obama began crafting his 20-minute remarks for the memorial after Mandela's passing last week. The president was expected to discuss Mandela's impact on his own life, as well as his transformation from prisoner to president.

"He obviously is cemented in our memory as an icon, but he was an extraordinary political leader, an extraordinary leader of a movement to bring about change," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser.

Obama's own political rise has drawn comparisons to Mandela. Each has the distinction of being his nation's first black president

and each was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. But people close to Obama say the U.S. president is well aware that his own experience pales in comparison to Mandela's 27 years in prison fighting against a repressive government that brutally enforced laws that enshrined racial discrimination.

By the time Obama became president, Mandela had retired from public life. But they did have one in-person meeting, a hastily arranged 2005 encounter while Mandela was visiting Washington. The South African leader had been encouraged to meet a young, black U.S. senator who was a rising star in American politics and invited Obama to visit him at his hotel.

A single photo from the meeting shows the two men smiling and shaking hands, with Obama standing and Mandela sitting, his legs stretched out in front of him. The photo hangs in Obama's personal office at the White House, as well as in Mandela's office in Johannesburg.

Riot police storm opposition offices in Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Heavily armed riot troops broke into the offices of a top Ukrainian opposition party in Kiev and seized its servers Monday, the party said, as anti-government protests crippled the capital for yet another day.

Elsewhere police dismantled or blocked off several small protest tent camps set up near key national government buildings in the city.

Tensions also rose as a double cordon of helmeted, shield-holding police deployed in the street near Kiev's city administration building, which demonstrators had occupied and turned into a makeshift command post and dormitory.

Early Tuesday, electricity to the building was cut off and occupiers began leaving, some carrying

out blankets and other goods, expecting that police were preparing to storm the site. But a small crowd remained on the steps and in the street. About three hours later, the lights came back on and some of the protesters returned to occupy the building.

Also, many cellular phones in the area received a text message early Tuesday addressed to protesters reading in part "You are surrounded, there are no chances." The number from which the message was sent rang to an unidentified voicemail.

The moves came a day after hundreds of thousands of demonstrators crammed into Kiev, the biggest in three weeks of protests that started when Ukraine's president backed away from signing a long-awaited pact to

deepen ties with the 28-nation European Union.

Protesters are angered not only by the thwarting of their desire to become closer to the West and spin out of Russia's orbit, but also by police violence against the demonstrators. Club-swinging police have twice broken up protest rallies.

Ostap Semerak, a member of the Fatherland Party, told The Associated Press that troops broke into the party's offices on Monday evening, some climbing in through its windows.

"They are storming us. The images are insane," he said by telephone.

The troops left after confiscating some computer equipment, he said. An Associated Press reporter later saw broken glass and smashed computers in the offices.

Stand-off in Kiev

No resolution to the troubles in the Ukrainian capital appear to be in sight as tensions mount between pro-Europe protesters and the pro-Russia government.

Sunday, Dec. 8

In the biggest display in the nearly three-week crisis, protesters smash the city's statue of Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin and dump the dismembered parts on Independence Square



KIEV

Independence Square

Cabinet of Ministers

City Hall

Background to the crisis

2004 In November, protests dubbed the Orange Revolution break out after Moscow-backed candidate Viktor Yanukovich is declared president; the following month, opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko wins in a re-run

2010 Yanukovich wins election

July 2013 As Kiev seeks closer EU ties, Russia restricts imports

November 2013 Yanukovich reverses decision to sign EU deal; protesters begin blockading government buildings, demanding that the president, parliament and cabinet be replaced

Source: ESRI, Aerogrid, AEX, GeoEye, IGN, IGP, USDA, USGS, BBC

© 2013 MCT

Campus Life

BEIJING (AP)—As a ninth-grader, Shanghai's Li Sixin spent more than three hours on homework a night and took tutorials in math, physics and chemistry on the weekends. When she was tapped

to take an exam last year given to half a million students around the world, Li breezed through it.

"I felt the test was just easy," said Li, who was a student at Shanghai Wenlai Middle School at the time and now attends high school. "The science part was harder... but I can handle that."

Those long hours focused on schoolwork—and a heavy emphasis on test-taking skills—help explain why young students like Li in China's financial hub once again dominated an international test to 15-year-olds called the Program for International Student Assessment, or PISA, coordinated by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD.

Students from Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan—all from Asia—were right behind.

Students in the wealthy city of Shanghai, where affluent families can afford to pay for tutors, are not representative of China overall, although they are ranked as a group alongside national averages for countries such as the United States and Japan. Still, they are indicative of education trends in China and elsewhere in Asia—societies where test results determine entrance into prestigious universities and often one's eventual career path.

Shanghai scored an average of 613 on math, as compared with the nearest rival Singapore with 573, and the global average of 494. Hong Kong ranked third in math, scoring 561, while Japan was ranked seventh and scored 536. The test is given every three years.

The results have led to hand-wringing elsewhere, including in the United States, where students failed to rank in the top 20 in any category. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan called the results a "picture of educational stagnation."

"We must invest in early education, raise academic standards, make college affordable, and do more to recruit and retain top-notch educators," Duncan said.

In China, educators say hard work is a key to their students' impressive showing.

"They listen carefully in the class and do the homework," said Bai Bing, the headmaster of Li's school, where about 40 students were chosen to take the global test. "They respect the teachers, and do exactly the assignments that teachers ask them to do."



In this January 2013 photo, preparatory students sit for National Center Test for University Admissions at the University of Tokyo.

AP

Diligent Asian students dominate GLOBAL EXAM

By DIDI TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"And it is a tradition that the Asians pay more attention to mathematics," Bai said.

In Hong Kong, 16-year-old Rosita Or said extra tutorials can extend her school days to 8 p.m.—but she does credit them with improving her math grades in school.

"Everyone is taking them—my friends, other students are taking the tutorial class. If I do not take this tutorial class, I feel like I have missed something," Or said.

Still, Chinese educational experts are taking a more somber view in the face of the stellar achievements by their students, saying the results are at most partial and covering up shortcomings in creating well-rounded, critical thinking individuals.

"This should not be considered a pride for us, because overall it still measures one's test-taking ability. You can have the best answer for a theoretical model, but can you build a factory on a test paper?" asked Xiong Bingqi, a Shanghai-based scholar on education.

"The biggest criticism is that China's education has sacrificed everything else for test scores, such as life skills, character building, mental health, and physical health," Xiong said.

Even the party-run People's Daily noted the burden on Shanghai students. "While many

countries have been urged to increase more study time and more homework for their students, Shanghai clearly needs some alleviation," the editorial reads.

Japan's education minister, Hakubun Shimomura, pointed to the test results as evidence of success in reforms aimed at reducing class sizes—despite continued criticism of the pressure-filled university entrance examination system. Many Japanese students also attend cram schools to get an extra edge.

"Asian countries do better than European and American schools because we are 'examination hell' countries," said Koji Kato, a professor emeritus of education at Tokyo's Sophia University. "There is more pressure to teach to the test. In my experience in working with teachers the situation is becoming worse and worse."

In China, where educational inequity is deeply entrenched, Shanghai has become an oasis of high standards and generous government support. The city invests four times the national average per student.

"Shanghai is an exception, and it is by no means representative of China," said Jiang Xueqin, deputy principal at the High School Attached to Tsinghua University in Beijing. "It's an international city where its residents pay great attention to

education and where there are many universities."

Affluent Shanghai parents annually spend an average of 6,000 yuan (\$1,000) on English and math tutors and 9,600 yuan (\$1,600) on weekend lessons, Jiang has written.

Ironically, many Chinese parents—especially those with means and bemoaning the pressure their children must endure in local schools—are increasingly sending their children overseas for what they consider a more well-rounded education.

In an analysis by the Shanghai Academy of Educational Sciences, it said Shanghai students ranked the first globally in time spent on homework. On average, they spent 13.8 hours on school-assigned homework every week, far above the international average of seven hours.

Zhang Minxuan, president of Shanghai Normal University, said homework is crucial to one's learning, although its effectiveness plateaus after 11 hours per week, according to Shanghai Education News, a web site by the Shanghai Education Commission. Zhang, who oversaw the PISA administration in Shanghai, said PISA does not measure students' social abilities, physical health and aesthetics, and he cautioned against extrapolating to the rest of the country.

"Shanghai is one of the most prosperous Chinese cities and one of the cities with balanced education. Shanghai students' top placement in PISA is no proof of equal development of education in China," he said, as reported by Shanghai Education News. "With no denying, China's education still has a long way to go."

How the US fared

The test, which is given every three years to 15-year-olds, is designed to assess how students use what they've learned inside and outside of school to solve problems.

U.S. scores on the PISA haven't changed much since testing started in 2000, even as students in countries such as Ireland and Poland have shown improvement and have surpassed U.S. students.

"It's hard to get excited about standing still while others around you are improving, so I don't want to be too positive," said Jack Buckley, commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics. But he added that the country has a respectable foundation on which to build.

American students historically have not had high marks on international tests. Factors often cited include high rates of child poverty and population diversity.

In contrast to the PISA re-

sults, American fourth- and eighth-graders over time have made some progress in reading and math on an assessment referred to as the Nation's Report Card, even though recent results found the vast majority of the students still are not demonstrating solid academic performance in either subject.

In the education community, Finland has drawn notice for its past test performance, but this year its average PISA score dropped in all three subjects, most pronounced in math. Finland's students did better on average than those from the United States.

Shanghai students also topped the PISA test in 2009. Tom Loveless, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said the school system in Shanghai is not equitable and the students tested are children of the elite because they are the ones allowed to attend municipal schools because of restrictions such as those that keep many migrant children out.

"The Shanghai scores frankly to me are difficult to interpret," Loveless said. "They are almost meaningless."

Buckley said U.S. officials have not seen any evidence of a "biased sample" of students tested in Shanghai. If the entire nation was included, he said it's unclear what the results would show.

Overall, NEA President Dennis Van Roekel said among the Asian nations dominating the test, "The one thing they all have in common is that they make a real commitment to education for all kids and nothing deters them from that vision, and then they do what's necessary to make that happen. In the United States, we don't have the commitment for all kids and it needs to change."

One indicator of performance is how many students scored at a high level on each subject tested. In the United States, 9 percent of test-takers hit that mark in math, 7 percent did so in science and 8 percent did in reading. Fewer U.S. test-takers hit that mark in math than the international average. However, they performed at about the international average in the other two subjects.

The test is based on a 1,000-point scale. Among the findings:

■ In math, the U.S. average score was 481. Average scores ranged from 368 in Peru to 613 in Shanghai. The international average was 494.

■ In science, the U.S. average score was 497. Average scores ranged from 373 in Peru to 580 in Shanghai. The international average was 501.

■ In reading, the U.S. average score was 498. Average scores ranged from 384 in Peru to 570 in Shanghai. The international average was 496.

Life & Style

‘Blackfish’ prompts Heart to cancel SeaWorld gig

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The rock bands Heart and Barenaked Ladies along with country singer Willie Nelson have canceled their planned performances at SeaWorld in Florida, citing the recent documentary “Blackfish,” which raises questions about the effects of captivity on whales.

Joan Jett on Monday also joined the list of recording artists distancing themselves from the marine park when she sent a letter to SeaWorld President Jim Atchison asking that the park stop using her song “I Love Rock ‘n’ Roll” as the opening music for its “Shamu Rocks” show.

“I’m among the millions who saw ‘Blackfish’ and am sickened that my music was blasted without my permission at sound-sensitive marine mammals,” Jett said in the letter.

“Ms. Jett’s music is not currently part of any show, although it was played as walk-in music for the “Shamu Rocks” nighttime show at SeaWorld Orlando and was fully licensed for us to use,” spokesman Nick Gollattscheck said in an email. “A new nighttime Shamu show is being designed for SeaWorld Orlando and we had no plans to use any of her music in that show.”

Heart was the latest act in the past week to cancel appearances at SeaWorld Orlando’s Bands, Brew & Barbecue music series in February, making their announcement over the weekend. The series is held over several weekends and features top classic rock and country acts.

A posting on Heart’s official Twitter page said the decision was influenced by the recently-released documentary “Blackfish.” The documentary raises

questions about the effects of captivity on killer whales at marine parks such as SeaWorld.

Nelson and Barenaked Ladies made their decisions after fans launched Change.org petitions urging them not to perform at SeaWorld.

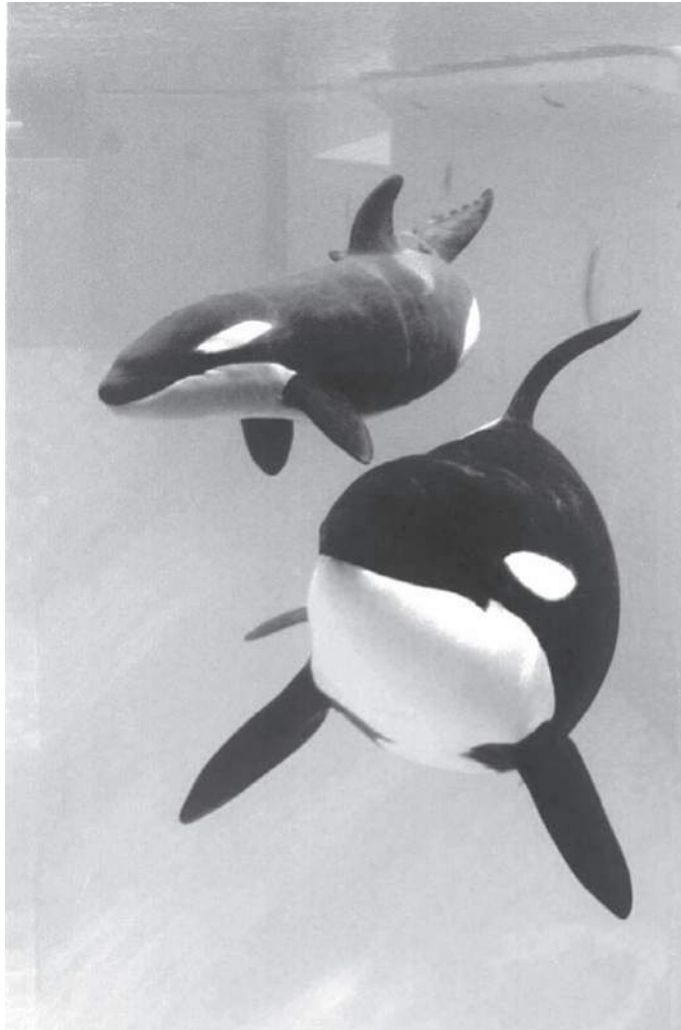
Barenaked Ladies said in a statement provided by their spokeswoman: “We watch movies too, ya know!”

“This is a complicated issue, and we don’t claim to understand all of it, but we don’t feel comfortable proceeding with the gig at this time,” the statement said.

SeaWorld officials “have been gracious, and extended us invitations to the park to learn more about what they do, and how they do it,” it said.

SeaWorld spokesman Nick Gollattscheck said in a statement that marine park officials respect the performers’ decisions but added that they were disappointed that “a small group of misinformed individuals” was able to influence the performers.

“The bands and artists have a standing invitation to visit any of our parks to see firsthand or to speak to any of our animal experts to learn for themselves how we care for animals and how little truth there is to the allegations made by animal extremist groups opposed to the zoological display of marine mammals,” Gollattscheck said.



In this July 2, 1999 file photo, killer whale Kalina, right, and her 10-day-old son Baby Shamu swim at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla.

“Blackfish” explores what may have caused Tilikum, a 12,000-pound orca, to kill veteran SeaWorld trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010. She was killed when Tilikum pulled her into a pool. The orca was also involved in two other deaths.

Tilikum was one of three orcas blamed for killing a trainer in 1991 after the woman lost her balance and fell in the pool at Sealand of the Pacific near Victoria, British Columbia. Tilikum

was also involved in a 1999 death, when the body of a man who had sneaked by SeaWorld security was found draped over him. The man either jumped, fell or was pulled into the frigid water and died of hypothermia, though he was also bruised and scratched by Tilikum.

The documentary released this year chronicles past incidences of killer whales in captivity acting aggressively toward human trainers and other orcas.

Native artifact sale in Paris makes \$1.6 million

PARIS (AP)—A French auction house that ignored a plea by the U.S. Embassy to delay an auction of sacred Hopi masks sold them briskly Monday along with other contested Native American artifacts for \$1.6 million.

As protesters stood outside the Drouot auction house with banners reading “Sacred Masks, Sacrilegious Sale,” some 25 vividly colored Kachina masks went under the hammer inside.

Though a judge ruled last week that the sale of the artifacts is legal in France, the American Indian Hopi tribe says the artifacts represent their ancestors’ spirits and cannot be sold as merchandise.

Objects sold quickly, including the sacred “Crow Mother,” a menacing Hopi mask with billowing black plumes, that was bought at nearly twice its expected value at \$171,000.

“This is the event of the year. It’s right here, right now. This is the American Indian sale of 2013,” auctioneer Eric Deneste said light-heartedly. His tone, and the almost comical cornucopia scattered for decoration around the masks, were in contrast to the very serious presence of security guards positioned around the room in case of disruption.

The Katsinam masks look like surreal faces made from wood, leather, horse hair and feathers and are painted in vivid pigments of red, blue, yellow and orange. Unlike commercial art, the Hopis argue, these objects are akin to tombs

and represent their ancestors’ spirits, nurtured and fed as if they are the living dead.

The U.S. Embassy made a request for delay on behalf of the Hopi and San Carlos Apache tribes, to allow them time to come to France and identify the artifacts and investigate whether they have a claim to the items under the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Both France and the U.S. are signatories to the treaty.

“No one is saying we should empty museums of their artifacts,” said Pierre Servan-Schreiber, a lawyer who represents the Hopi tribe. “But these objects have a special significance for a people that still exists. When will someone realize that not everything can be sold and bought?”

Servan-Schreiber told The Associated Press that he bought one of the Hopi masks to return to the tribe.

Last week, the Hopi tribe took the auction house to court to try to block the sale. The tribe lost, with the judge highlighting that France does not possess laws to protect indigenous peoples. Servan-Schreiber told the AP that the San Carlos Apache tribe also wanted to join that suit, to protect their own objects, but it was too late for them to join, under French legal procedure.

“The Hopi tribe was able to argue their case before a judge (last week) and was rebuffed,” said a short statement from the auction house.

‘Sound of Music’ actress Eleanor Parker dies at 91

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eleanor Parker, who was nominated for Academy Awards three times for her portrayals of strong-willed women and played a scheming baroness in “The Sound of Music,” has died at 91.

Family friend Richard Gale said Parker died Monday morning due to complications from pneumonia. “She passed away peacefully, surrounded by her children at a medical facility near her home in Palm Springs,” Gale added.

Parker was nominated for Oscars in 1950, 1951 and 1955, but then saw her career begin to wane in the early 1960s. Her last memorable role came in 1965’s “The Sound of Music,” in which she played the scheming baroness who loses Christopher Plummer to Julie Andrews.

“Eleanor Parker was and is one of the most beautiful ladies I have ever known,” said Plummer in a statement. “Both as a person and as a beauty. I hardly believe the sad news for I was



In this Feb. 28, 1967 file photo, film actress Eleanor Parker visits Palm Mallorca, while in in town trying to purchase a villa in Spain.X

sure she was enchanted and would live forever.”

Parker’s death comes at a time when “The Sound of Music” is back in the spotlight following NBC’s live restag-

ing of the classic last week—a ratings smash.

Parker worked only infrequently after “The Sound of Music,” appearing in films and on such TV shows as “Fantasy

Island,” “Murder, She Wrote” and “The Love Boat.” She also starred in the short-lived 1960s TV series “Bracken’s World.”

“I’m primarily a character actress,” she said in a 1988 interview, explaining why she never achieved the stardom of so many of her co-stars. “I’ve portrayed so many diverse individuals on the screen that my own personality never emerged.”

Like William Holden, Robert Preston, Dustin Hoffman and others, Parker was discovered at the Pasadena Playhouse.

She was signed to a contract at Warner Bros., where she played only minor roles until the studio recognized her dramatic depth and cast her as Mildred Rogers in the 1946 remake of “Of Human Bondage.”

The Somerset Maugham story had made Bette Davis a star 12 years before. On Parker’s first day of filming, Davis sent her flowers and a note proclaiming, “I hope Mildred does as much for your career

as she did for mine.”

But the film flopped, and Parker was again relegated to mediocre roles until her breakthrough performance as an inmate in a brutal prison in the 1950 film “Caged.” The role brought Parker her first Oscar nomination, for best actress.

Her second came the following year as Kirk Douglas’s frustrated wife in “Detective Story.”

Her career fully blossomed with such follow-up films as “Scaramouche” with Stewart Granger, “Above and Beyond” with Robert Taylor, “Escape from Fort Bravo” with Holden, “Valley of the Kings” with Taylor, and “The Naked Jungle” with Charlton Heston.

She took on one of her most challenging roles in 1955 in “Interrupted Melody,” portraying opera star Marjorie Lawrence, who continued her career after contracting polio. Faced with having to lip-sync nine arias in three languages, she holed up in a Lake Arrowhead cabin for two weeks and played records eight to 10 hours a day.

The result: her third Oscar

nomination.

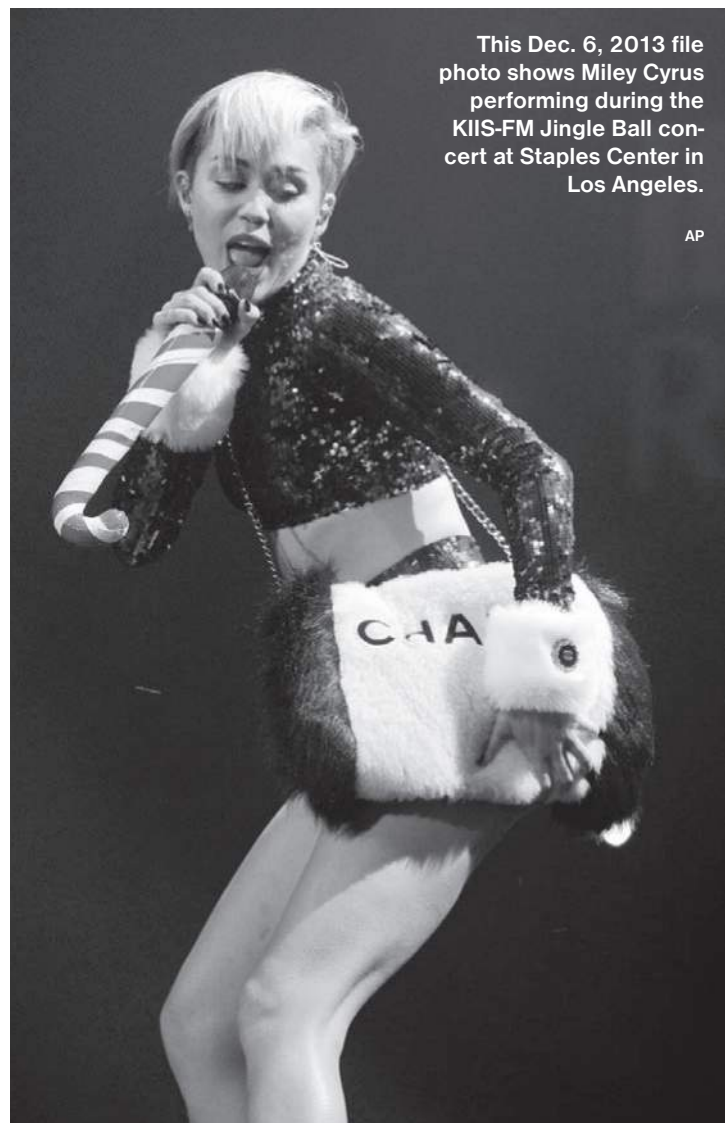
Other notable films included “The Man with the Golden Arm” and “A Hole in the Head” (both opposite Frank Sinatra) and “The King and Four Queens” with Gable.

Growing up in Cedarsville, Ohio, Parker had yearned to be an actress, and when the family moved to Cleveland, she began taking acting lessons. In the summer she worked as an apprentice in a Martha’s Vineyard stock company, waiting tables to support herself.

After moving to Pasadena, she was cast in her first movie role at 19, a bit part in “They Died With Their Boots On,” starring Errol Flynn.

Parker’s first three marriages ended in divorce: to Navy dentist Fred L. Losse; producer Bert Friedlob, which resulted in three children, Susan, Sharon and Richard; and painter Paul Clemens, with whom she had a son, actor Paul Clemens. Her 1966 marriage to Shubert Theater manager Raymond Hirsch ended with his death in 2001.

MTV declares Miley Cyrus its artist of the year



This Dec. 6, 2013 file photo shows Miley Cyrus performing during the KIIS-FM Jingle Ball concert at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Here's something to wag a tongue at: MTV says Miley Cyrus is the best artist of the year.

The former child star twerked her way to the top. Her eye-popping duet with Robin Thicke on the MTV Video Music Awards was one of the year's most talked about cultural events.

MTV said Monday the VMA duet on "We Can't Stop" and "Blurred Lines" was the year's most watched video on its websites. Similarly, the MTV artist site devoted to Cyrus had more visits than any other artist's.

Besides "We Can't Stop," the song "Wrecking Ball" and album "Bangerz" were big hits for Cyrus, who also had notable appearances on "Saturday Night Live" and MTV's European music awards show.

MTV executives pick their top artist. One Direction won last year, and Katy Perry won the year before.

This year, Cyrus was an easy choice, said Amy Doyle, head of MTV's music and talent programming strategy.

"She dominated the music charts and critics' best-of lists while creating some of the year's most memorable moments," Doyle said.

Appeals court sets argument on Jackson doctor case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California court has scheduled arguments next month for Michael Jackson's doctor to appeal his involuntary manslaughter conviction.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles set arguments in the case for Jan. 9.

Former cardiologist Conrad Murray is appealing his 2011 conviction on various grounds. He says a judge excluded jurors from hearing key evidence and should have sequestered jurors on the high-profile case.

The attorney general's office has said the issues cited by Murray's lawyers were not errors and are not a basis to give him a new trial.

Murray was convicted of causing Jackson's death by giving the singer an overdose of the anesthetic propofol on June 25, 2009.

Murray was released in October after serving nearly two years in jail.

Don't count on boyfriend's ex for unbiased appraisal

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm considering marrying a man who is divorced. We get along great, and I love and trust him.

Is it ever appropriate to call the ex and discuss her side of the story? Or should I ask my boyfriend what she'd say if I were to contact her?

COVERING MY
BASES IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR COVERING YOUR BASES: If you call the ex, you can count on hearing something negative about your boyfriend or they wouldn't be exes. Also, the things the ex might consider to be flaws may be the qualities you love best about him.

That you would say you love and trust your boyfriend, and in the next sentence indicate you're considering a chat with his former wife, makes me wonder how deep your level of trust is. However, if your gut tells you to do some digging, then you should listen to it—even if it results in an argument, which it probably will.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm proud of my daughter, "Celia." She has a master's degree, a successful career and is soon to be married to a wonderful man.

Through three moves my wife and I have cared for our daughter's one-ton-plus of "stuff," which includes the big dollhouse her grandpa built, her doll collection, high school and college memorabilia, her diaries, dishes for her future home, etc. When she visited, I'd ask her to sort through the boxes and throw some things out. Didn't happen.

My wife and I have downsized to a condo. The room that was supposed to be my "man cave" is half-filled with Celia's things. It is TIME!

Should I request that our daughter pay for storage, or rent a U-Haul so I can deliver a one-ton-plus "wedding gift"?

DISGRUNTLED DAD IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR DAD: I can think of few things that would destroy the ambiance of a man cave more than a dollhouse. With a successful career, your daughter can afford to pay for a storage unit for her memorabilia. Set a date by which it must be out of your condo, with the understanding that if it isn't, YOU will dispose of it. You should not have to deliver it to her. You have been patient long enough, and the responsibility is hers.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a longtime practicing Pagan. Because of the media, Pagans are considered to be evil devil-worshippers instead of the nature-loving people with knowledge of home remedies we are. This makes it difficult in the dating world.

A friend of mine wants to hook me up with a friend of his. When is it appropriate to tell the gentleman that I'm a practicing Pagan? I dress like everyone else, so at first glance you wouldn't suspect my religion isn't Christian.

LOVER OF NATURE

DEAR LOVER OF NATURE: Nothing compels you and a stranger to get into a discussion about religious beliefs on a first date, but you should mention it when the opportunity arises. If the man seems to be put off by it, suggest he consult patheos.com, an online library on the subject of religions, in which there is a section describing Paganism, its practices and origins. It should make for a stimulating discussion.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Justin Bieber arrives in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Teen heartthrob Justin Bieber arrived Tuesday in the Philippines, where he has launched a campaign to help victims of last month's killer typhoon.

Bieber, adored by young fans worldwide for hits like "Baby," arrived on a special flight, Immigration officer Jerome Ollet said. Pictures on social media showed fans snapping photos of the star at Manila's airport.

In a video posted on the fundraising platform Prizeo, Bieber asked fans to help him support victims of Typhoon Haiyan, which left nearly 6,000 people dead and more than

CBS orders four-hour miniseries based on 'The Dovekeepers'

NEW YORK (AP)—The makers of "The Bible" on TV are going back again in time for a CBS miniseries.

The network announced that it will air a four-hour miniseries based on the historical novel "The Dovekeepers," sometime in 2015. Actress Roma Downey and her husband, veteran television producer Mark Burnett, will make it. The couple scored a major hit with their miniseries "The Bible" on the History channel earlier this year.

The novel is about four women who work to save 900 Jews being attacked by Romans in a fortress in Masada.

Alice Hoffman's novel "The Dovekeepers" was published in 2011, and was called "an amazing story of heroism and hope" by Downey.



AP

In this Sept. 30, 2012 file photo, Justin Bieber performs at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

1,700 others missing, and flattened entire towns and villages in the central Philippines.

Bieber is one of the several

Fran Drescher heading to Broadway's 'Cinderella'

NEW YORK (AP)—Cinderella's evil stepmom is about to be replaced by "The Nanny."

Producers of "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella" said Monday that Fran Drescher will make her Broadway debut Feb. 4 in the show, playing Cinderella's stepmother. Drescher's 10-week run ends April 13.

Drescher, an Emmy Award winner for "The Nanny" and whose film credits include "The Cadillac Man" and "This is Spinal Tap," takes over the role created by Harriet Harris.

Drescher has been onstage before, including roles in Nora Ephron's "Love, Loss, and What I Wore," Neil LaBute's "Some Girl(s)" and Ronald Ribman's "Rug Merchants of Chaos" at The Pasadena Playhouse.

The Tony-nominated musical has been given a makeover by Douglas Carter Beane, who has turned the fairy tale into a charming, witty story updated for a new generation.



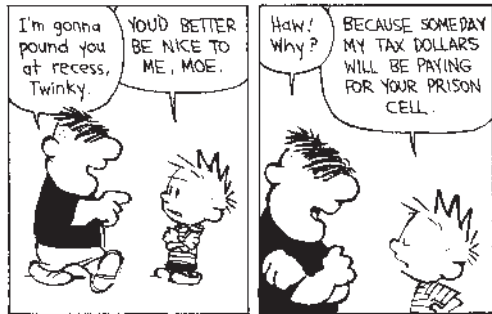
AP

This June 27, 2013 file photo shows actress Fran Drescher at the "Helmut Newton: White Women—Sleepless Nights—Big Nudes" exhibit opening at the Annenberg Space Photography in Los Angeles.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



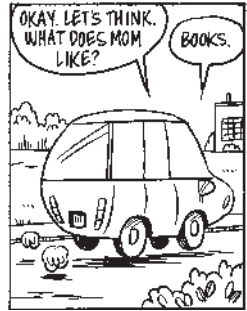
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



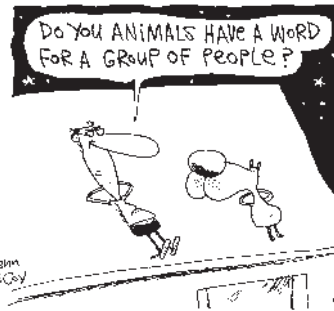
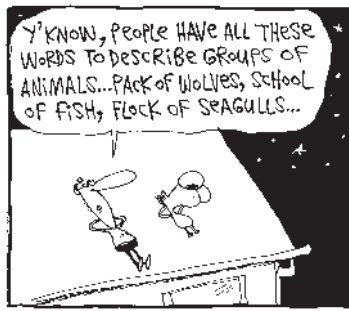
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

25 Vagrant

26 Suitable

27 Mimic

28 Fencing

30 Hot tub

33 Side-by-side

36 More

37 Ask

38 Scattered

39 Incite

40 Existed

41 — out a living

DOWN

1 Kind of numeral

2 Smell

3 Meeting places?

4 Mistreat

5 Engine

6 College

7 Squirrel's

8 Bewildered

9 Stressful

10 Moreover

12 Cher's

14 Send forth

15 "Born in the —"

19 Big bother

20 Time of your life?

21 Clean a spill

22 Mountain

23 Cribs

24 It's nothing new

25 Uris

26 Narrow inlet (Var.)

28 Islamic decree

29 Tools for duels

30 Prolonged attack

31 Skin opening

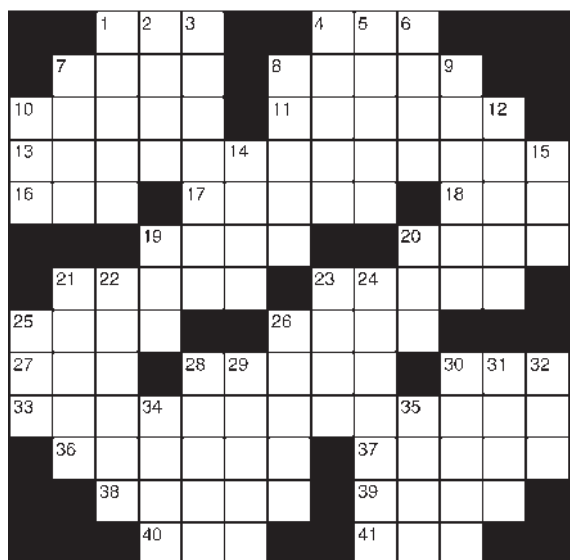
32 Whatever number

34 Consider, old-style

35 Istanbul denizen

Solution time: 21 mins.

WOLF HBO BIRD
ALARYENOREO
LIMAPLOPPING
TOPPINGREFSTS
EMCEEPOPPING
LOODECROE
MOPPINGSUAVE
AHABAN
SCHMOPOPPING
CLOPPINGAVER
AONEDIGCARE
DYERSPYKNOW



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hailie Steinfeld, 17; Mos Def, 40; Mo'Nique, 46; Jermaine Jackson, 59.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on what you can do to get ahead personally and professionally this year. Take action instead of just talking about what you want to do. Look for alternatives that are within your budget that still allow you to strive to reach your goals. Travel will give you the opportunity to seek out new lifestyles, living arrangements and job opportunities. Your numbers are 9, 12, 18, 20, 25, 33, 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't spend all your hard-earned cash. You may want to surprise or spoil the people you love, but keeping your cash and offering your help, kindness and love is a better choice. You'll learn from an experience you have regarding integrity. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Step things up a notch and prepare to get a lot done. Interesting information regarding someone you know will help you make a decision about this person. Respond openly to a different lifestyle, philosophy or way of doing things. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make adjustments to your schedule to ensure you have time to take part in the events that are scheduled toward the end of the year. Speak up about what you want and what you intend to do. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't shy away from change. Showing your ability to move along with the times will make a difference to future prospects and participations.

Throw a little romance into the mix late in the day and enjoy what life has to offer. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Plan an eventful day that includes friends, peers and sharing thoughts, ideas and plans for the future. Mixing business with pleasure may be encouraged, but should be treated with caution. Jealousy or possessiveness is likely to develop. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out of the house and into the hustle and bustle in your neighborhood. Keeping secrets may not be easy, but it will be necessary. An investment you make isn't likely to sit well with someone you are close to. Proceed with caution. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to be criticized if you don't stick to the rules or if you venture down a path that isn't practical. Have your defense ready and your facts and figures accurately calculated to back your choices. An emotional situation will catch you off guard. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Re-evaluate what you have done in the past and where you happen to be in the present and what you want to achieve in the future. As the year comes to a close, having your game plan in place will ease stress. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't believe everything you hear. Go to the source and find out firsthand. Someone is likely to meddle in your affairs. Focus on what you know and do well, and refuse to get dragged into situations that can only lead to trouble. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't count on anyone doing what you want on time or to your liking. If you want something done, do it yourself. A relationship will flourish if you add a little romance into the mix. Enjoy time alone with someone you love. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Discipline will get you back on track. Pull out your to-do list and make all the adjustments necessary to improve your life and your relationships with the people you care about most. Someone older will influence your future. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make time for friends. The information you gather can make a difference to your financial situation. Honesty will make a difference to the outcome of a relationship you have with someone. Romance can lead to a promise. ***

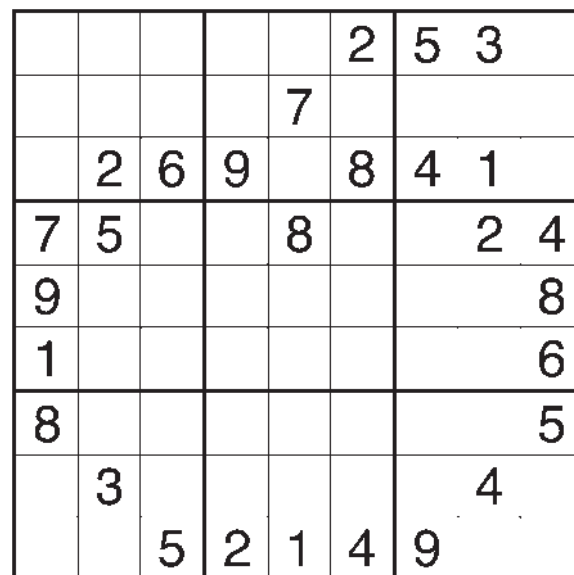
Birthday Baby: You are playful, receptive and inventive. You are entertaining.

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

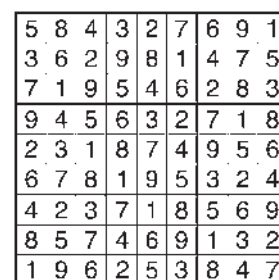


Difficulty Level ★★★

12/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level **

12/11

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KEN NORTON (1943-2013)

Solution: 13 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Aerospace

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Walker lifts Bobcats past Curry, Warriors, 115-111



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Kemba Walker scored 27 of his 31 points in the second half, and the Charlotte Bobcats ruined Stephen Curry's homecoming with a wire-to-wire 115-111 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night.

Curry overcame a slow start to finish with a season-high 43 points, 32 of them coming in the second half.

Curry, a Charlotte native who burst on the national scene while playing at nearby Davidson College, scored 19 points in the fourth quarter, including a 27-footer with a hand in his face to cut the Bobcats' lead to 111-109 with 11 seconds left.

But the Warriors (12-10) couldn't contain Walker, and the point guard hit four free throws in the final 11 seconds to seal the victory.

Gerald Henderson had 24 points and Josh McRoberts had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Bobcats (10-11), who won their second straight game.

While Curry was putting on a show, Walker did his best to match him in a duel of high-octane point guards.

Walker scored 15 points in the fourth quarter and finished 10 of 18 from the field and 9 of 11 from the foul line. He also had five assists.

Curry was 3 of 11 in the first half, but got hot late in the third quarter and finished 14 of 32 from the field against a Bobcats team that hadn't allowed 100 points in 13 straight games. He was only 5 of 16 from 3-point range, but did some damage at the free throw line where he was 10 of 12.

Curry also had nine assists.

The Bobcats led 53-41 at the half behind 14 points from Henderson, who was 7 of 10 from the field, scoring most of his points in the low post. The Warriors struggled from the field early, shooting 1 of 12 from 3-point range.



Golden State Warriors' David Lee, center, loses the ball as Charlotte Bobcats' Josh McRoberts, left, and Al Jefferson, right, defend during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Dec. 9, 2013.

Curry, who led Davidson to the brink of the Final Four as a sophomore, came in with a career average of 25.3 points against his hometown team while shooting 62 percent from 3-point land.

The Warriors never led, but tied the game at 88-all on a pair of free throws by Curry.

But Ramon Sessions scored on a pair of drives and Ben Gordon knocked down a 3-pointer to quickly push the lead back to seven with 6:50 left in the game. Walker hit a 3-pointer and a fall away in the lane to help stretch the lead to 11.

Warriors coach Mark Jackson said before the game that Curry's play has been "spectacular" this season.

"He's been playing at a whole different level," Jackson said. "He's playing and acting like he's the best player on the floor

night-in-and-night-out, carrying us down the stretch, making plays, choosing when to take over offensively and he knows when to facilitate."

"You see his scoring and you fall in love with his jump shot. He's a guy that's among the league leaders in assists also. He's playing at a different level. He's getting to the level of the baddest man on the planet. It's really fun to see. It takes everyone else to another level."

Kings 112, Mavericks 97

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points and 19 rebounds and Derrick Williams scored a career-high 31 to pace Sacramento to the victory over Dallas.

Earlier in the day, the Kings completed a seven-player deal with Toronto that brought them Rudy Gay, Aaron Gray

and Quincy Acy. Greivis Vasquez, Patrick Patterson, John Salmons and Chuck Hayes went to the Raptors.

Using just 10 players, the Kings led by 19 points after three quarters and by as many as 24 points in the fourth in winning their second straight.

Monta Ellis had 21 points for the Mavericks, who had won three straight, including the last two on the road. The loss also ended a five-game win streak against the Kings.

Clippers 94, 76ers 83

In Philadelphia, Blake Griffin scored 26 points and Chris Paul added 25 points and 13 assists as short-handed Los Angeles defeated Philadelphia.

DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and a season-high 21 rebounds, and Jared Dudley scored 10 points for the Clip-

pers, who won their second straight. The Clippers are 2-1 on a seven-game road trip.

Los Angeles played without J.J. Redick (injuries to right hand and wrist), Reggie Bullock (sprained left ankle), Maalik Wayns (left knee) and Matt Barnes (torn retina in left eye).

Evan Turner scored 25 points and Thaddeus Young added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who struggled once again without Michael Carter-Williams. The Sixers are 1-6 without their floor leader, who missed his third straight game with a skin infection.

Nuggets 75, Wizards 74

In Washington, Wilson Chandler scored 17 points, Nate Robinson added 16, and Kenneth Faried had a key block and transition dunk with 33 seconds left to lift Denver past Washington.

Washington had three possessions after Faried put Denver ahead, but John Wall missed a layup, Trevor Ariza missed a 3-pointer, Chandler blocked a layup try by Garrett Temple, and Robinson stripped the ball from Wall in the closing seconds.

Chandler also had eight rebounds to help the Nuggets rally from 12 points down in the second half, and Robinson helped the Denver reserves outscore their depleted Washington counterparts 34-5.

Wall finished with 20 points and eight assists, Marcin Gortat scored 16 points, and Trevor Booker added 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Wizards.

Trail Blazers 105, Jazz 94

In Salt Lake City, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and Damian Lillard added 17 to propel Portland past Utah.

Robin Lopez chipped in 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Wesley Matthews added 16 points for the Blazers, who bounced back with their second win over Utah this season after losing to Dallas on Saturday to end a four-game winning streak.

Reserve Alec Burks had 20 points for the Jazz, who dropped their fourth game in a row. Enes Kanter added 19 points and Gordon Hayward chipped in 17 for Utah.

Grizzlies 94, Magic 85

In Memphis, Tennessee, Zach Randolph had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Jon Leuer added 16 points and a career-best 12 boards to lead Memphis over Orlando.

Mike Conley had 13 points and Jerryd Bayless finished with 11 points, including a late 3-pointer to preserve the win and end a two-game slide. Conley also had seven assists.

Andrew Nicholson and Jameer Nelson led the Magic with 19 points apiece. Nicholson also grabbed 11 rebounds in Orlando's sixth straight loss.



CHICAGO (AP)—Neither the brutal cold nor the league's worst defense could stop Josh McCown and the Bears.

Instead, Chicago jumped right back into the playoff race.

McCown threw for a career-high four touchdowns, and the Bears scored on their first eight possessions to grab a share of the NFC North lead with a 45-28 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on a frigid Monday night.

The Bears (7-6) retired Hall of Famer Mike Ditka's number at halftime and pulled even with Detroit in the division race on a night when the game-time temperature was in single digits and the wind chill factor was below zero.

The loss left Dallas (7-6) a game behind Philadelphia in the NFC East and owner Jerry Jones calling for more aggressive play-calling on defense.

The bone-chilling conditions didn't stop McCown from throwing for 348 yards or keep the Bears from running away with a lopsided victory.

Bears beat Cowboys 45-28 on Ditka Day

It was one they desperately needed after consecutive losses, and although Detroit holds the head-to-head sweep, the Bears are back in the thick of the playoff race.

"All we could do is try to beat the Dallas Cowboys," coach Marc Trestman said. "We kept it as simple as that. We didn't get into all the hypotheticals and all the things that go into winning or losing a game."

Alshon Jeffery's leaping catch between two defenders in the corner of the end zone in the closing seconds of the second quarter gave the Bears a 24-14 lead, and they continued to pour it on in the second half after a gut-wrenching overtime loss at Minnesota last week.

McCown, making his fourth straight start with Jay Cutler sidelined by a high left ankle sprain, became the first Bears quarterback to throw for 300 or more yards in three

straight games. And for that, DeMarcus Ware blamed Dallas' defense.

"If you were back there quarterbacking and we played the way we played you probably would have five touchdowns," he said.

McCown, meanwhile, insisted he's still the backup. And Trestman said the plan with Cutler hasn't changed.

"We'll see where Jay is this week," he said. "He'll have to be released by the doctors and when Jay is ready to play, he'll be playing."

Brandon Marshall caught six passes for 100 yards, and Jeffery added 84 yards receiving after breaking his own team record the previous week with 249.

Matt Forte chipped in with 102 yards rushing and 73 receiving, and the Bears racked up 490 yards in all.

"Basically, we will have to make some adjustments in what we are doing defensively," Jones said. "What that usually means is taking more risks

on defense. But if you're going to have the kind of match like we had tonight or certainly in New Orleans you have to take some risks. We have to double up and I'm sure that will be part of the plan on defense; more risks."

Tony Romo threw for three touchdowns but completed just 11 of 20 passes for 104 yards for Dallas. DeMarco Murray ran for 146 yards against the league's worst run defense, but the Cowboys were overmatched after winning two straight.

They also lost linebacker Sean Lee to another injury—this time a neck issue after making a tackle in the third quarter. He missed the previous two games with a hamstring problem.

"Certainly, it was a disappointing loss and the loss stings," coach Jason Garrett said. "The worst thing we can do is have a hangover after this loss."

The game-time temperature was 8 degrees with the wind chill at minus 9,

but the freezing conditions did nothing to slow either team in the early going. Garrett said both teams handled it well.

Murray burned Chicago for 52 yards on six carries on the game's opening possession to set up a 2-yard scoring pass from Romo to Dez Bryant, but the Bears scored just about every time they got the ball.

After Bryant's TD, McCown tied it with a 4-yard pass to Earl Bennett and put Chicago ahead 14-7 early in the second quarter with a 7-yard scramble, leaping at the goal line and getting spun in midair.

Jason Witten tied it at 14 when he dragged Major Wright across the goal line on a 10-yard touchdown catch, but the Bears grabbed a three-point lead on Robbie Gould's 27-yard field goal with 1:33 remaining in the half.

Jeffery added to it with that neat catch after Dallas was forced to punt.

"I'm just trying to give him a chance to go up and make the play but not really put the ball in jeopardy, so to speak," McCown said. "My part was relative easy to the catch."

Torre, La Russa, Cox elected to baseball Hall



LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Joe Torre, Tony La Russa and Bobby Cox spent

decades trying to beat each other, no holds barred. On this day, however, they were a mutual admiration society.

And why not? They were going to the Hall of Fame together.

With a combined eight World Series titles and more than 7,500 wins, the managerial trio made it to Cooperstown in results announced Monday. Each was unanimously selected when the 16 voters on the expansion era committee met a day earlier.

“They’re not the easiest guys to manage against, that’s for sure. But it was fun. It was always a battle,” Cox said Monday at the winter meetings. “And I consider them enemies on the field, but friends off the field.”

All three exceeded the magic benchmark of 2,000 wins—only Connie Mack and John McGraw have won more.

“Managing against them, you certainly learned things,” said Torre, now an executive vice president for Major League Baseball. “I am honored to go into the Hall with these two guys.”

Induction ceremonies will be held July 27 in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Candidates needed 12 votes for election. No one else on the 12-person ballot that included former players’ union head Marvin Miller and late New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner got more than six votes.

Torre became the fifth manager to win four World Series championships, leading the Yankees to titles in 1996 and from 1998-00 - beating Cox’s Braves twice. After making only one trip to the playoffs in



Retired managers, from left, Tony La Russa, Joe Torre and Bobby Cox gather for a photo after it was announced that they were unanimously elected to the baseball Hall of Fame, at a news conference during MLB winter meetings in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Monday, Dec. 9, 2013.

14 seasons with the New York Mets, St. Louis and Atlanta, Torre guided the Yankees to the postseason in all 12 of his years in New York with a cool, patient demeanor. His popularity rankled Steinbrenner.

“George Steinbrenner changed my life giving me that opportunity at the end of ‘95,” said Torre, the seventh Yankees manager to be elected to the Hall. “He just wanted to win. He felt he owed it to the city. Maybe, the fact I was a New Yorker, it really struck a nerve with me.”

Torre finished his career by leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to two NL West titles in three seasons, retiring after 2010 with

a record of 2,326-1,997. He’s the only manager to have more than 2,000 hits as a player—he was the 1971 NL MVP—and 2,000 wins in the dugout.

“Joe taught a lot of us about how to win the right way and lose the right way,” La Russa said.

The savvy La Russa won World Series titles with Oakland in 1989 and with St. Louis in 2006 and ‘11, retiring days after beating the Texas Rangers in a seven-game thriller. Of the nine managers with three or more World Series titles, the other seven all have been inducted.

La Russa finished with the third-most wins by a manager

in a career that began with the Chicago White Sox in 1979 and ended with a record of 2,728-2,365.

“I miss the winning and losing,” La Russa said. “Someday I’ll be with a team, I think. I’d like to be part of the competition again.”

Cox’s managerial career began in 1978 with Atlanta, but he was fired after four seasons - only one above .500. A four-year run in Toronto ended in 1985 with an AL East title, and Ted Turner lured him back to the Braves as their GM. Cox returned to the dugout in 1990, and following one losing season he went on one of the most successful regular-season runs by

any skipper, leading the Braves to 14 straight division titles and a World Series championship in 1995.

He retired in 2010 fourth behind La Russa in career wins with a record of 2,504-2,001. Cigar-chomping and fiercely loyal to his players, Cox was ejected a major league record 159 times.

Two of his pitchers during the remarkable stretch during the ‘90s, 300-game winners Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, head the newcomers on this year’s players’ ballot. Results of voting by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America is scheduled for Jan. 8.

“I just hope Glav and Mad

Dog can be on the stage with me,” Cox said. “That would be the final finishing touch, going in with those two.”

Miller, the pioneering head of the players’ association from 1966-81, was rejected for admission to the Hall for the sixth time he appeared on a committee ballot. He fell one vote short of induction in 2010 and received no more than six votes this year.

“Words cannot adequately describe the level of disappointment and disbelief I felt when learning that once again the Hall of Fame has chosen to ignore Marvin Miller and his unparalleled contributions to the growth and prosperity of Major League Baseball,” players’ association head Tony Clark said in a statement. “Over the past 50 years, no individual has come close to matching Marvin’s impact on the sport.”

This year’s committee included Hall of Famers Rod Carew, Carlton Fisk, Whitey Herzog, Tom Lasorda, Paul Molitor, Joe Morgan, Phil Niekro and Frank Robinson; Blue Jays President Paul Beeston; retired club executive Andy MacPhail; Philadelphia President Dave Montgomery; White Sox chairman Jerry Reinsdorf; Steve Hirdt of the Elias Sports Bureau; Bruce Jenkins of the San Francisco Chronicle; BBWAA Secretary-Treasurer Jack O’Connell; and retired Fort Worth Star-Telegram reporter Jim Reeves.

This year’s ballot, chosen by a BBWAA-appointed historical overview committee, covers baseball’s expansion era. Players, managers, umpires, executives whose most significant impact was from 1973 and later were considered as part of a three-year cycle. The golden era (1947-72) will be voted on in 2014 and the pre-integration era (1871-1946) will be judged in 2015.

Heisman: Winston, Manziel, Lynch among 6 finalists



NEW YORK (AP)—Jameis

Winston will have plenty of company at the Heisman Trophy ceremony—though he’s not expected to have much competition.

The Florida State quarterback was among a record-tying six Heisman finalists revealed Monday, along with Northern Illinois’ Jordan Lynch, Texas A&M’s Johnny Manziel, Alabama’s AJ McCarron, Auburn’s Tre Mason and Boston College’s Andre Williams.

Six finalists invited to New York for the presentation are the most since 1994. The winner will be announced Saturday night.

Winston is the overwhelming favorite to win the award now that a sexual assault complaint

against him in Tallahassee, Fla., has been closed without charges being filed.

He could also become the second freshman to win the award. Manziel was the first just last year. Famous Jameis, like Johnny Football last season, is a redshirt freshman.

While Winston was a lock to be invited, the rest of the field was muddled. Some contenders had late stumbles (Manziel and Lynch), others (Mason and Williams) made late runs.

Manziel will try to join another exclusive Heisman club by becoming the second player to win the award twice. Ohio State’s Archie Griffin won the award in 1974 and ‘75. The Aggies’ quarterback is third in the nation in total offense with 368 yards per game.

Lynch led No. 24 Northern Illinois (12-1) to within a vic-

tory of a BCS bid and has set the major college record for yards rushing for a quarterback this season with 1,815. He also tweeted that he was a finalist about five minutes before the official announcement was made on ESPN by 1996 winner Danny Wuerffel.

“NYC here I come!! Thanks to the coaches teammates and media relation couldn’t of did it wt out them!” the record-setting senior posted.

McCarron completed 67 percent of his passes for 2,676 yards and 26 touchdowns for the fourth-ranked Crimson Tide (11-1).

“This will be my first trip to New York City, and I can’t put into words how much it means to me,” McCarron said in a statement released by the school. “I am truly privileged to have the opportunity to rep-

resent our team at the Heisman ceremony. None of this would be possible without my coaches and teammates.”

Mason helped No. 2 Auburn reach the BCS title game, running for 304 yards and four TDs in the SEC championship game. He is ninth in the country in rushing (124 ypg).

“When I heard the news, I was in disbelief,” Mason said in a statement. “For me to be invited to the Heisman ceremony, I am honored and blessed. I couldn’t have done it without my teammates; this is an honor for all of them also.”

Williams is the nation’s leading rusher at 175 yards per game and the 16th player in FBS to run for 2,000 yards in a season.

Winston’s arrival as Florida State’s starting quarterback was being touted as a major

event in the spring and he has surpassed the hype. The Alabama native is on pace to break the NCAA record for passer efficiency rating (190.1) and has already set records for yards passing (3,820) and TD passes (38) for a freshman.

Winston’s only issues have come off the field. About a month ago, a year-old sexual assault complaint against him made by a female Florida State student was given by police to the state attorney’s office for a full investigation.

A woman claimed Winston raped her. Winston’s lawyer said the sex was consensual. Winston continued to play, and play well, during the investigation. Last week, the state attorney announced there would be no charges filed in the case, and two days later Winston threw for three touchdown passes and ran for a score as No. 1 Florida State won the Atlantic Coast Conference

championship game 45-7 against Duke and wrapped up a spot in the BCS title game.

In the latest straw poll released Monday by Heisman-Pundit.com, which has correctly predicted the last seven winners, Winston received seven of the 10 first-place votes and 26 points to easily outdistance Lynch (eight points and two first-place votes).

All six finalists are expected to attend the ceremony, which would match ‘94 for the most in Heisman history. That season Colorado tailback Rashaan Salaam won the Heisman, and Penn State’s Ki-Jana Carter and Kerry Collins, along with Alcorn State’s Steve McNair, Alabama’s Jay Barker and Miami’s Warren Sapp were finalists.

In 1989, eight players were invited to the ceremony, but only four attended. Among the missing was Houston’s Andre Ware, who won the award but was preparing for a game.

Marianas Cup: CNMI U19 vs Quality Distributors

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CNMI U19 National Team and Quality Distributors players, officials, and players' escorts make their way to the pitch during the 2013 Marianas Football Club held last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Game officials and their escorts wait for the start of the game.



Quality Distributors players sing the Guam anthem. Also in the photo are, from left, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan and Guam Football Association officials George Lai and Gian Tenorio.



The CNMI flag is on display, while players and their escorts sing the Commonwealth anthem.



CNMI and Quality Distributors players shake hands before starting their game.



Quality Distributors starting 11 pose with team owner George Lai,



The CNMI U19 National Team's starting unit poses for a group photo.



Quality Distributors players huddle at the pitch.



Players and game officials bow their heads as a moment of silence was offered for the late South African president Nelson Mandela.



Members of the CNMI U19 National Team and their escorts wait for the next activity at the pitch.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS gets another v'ball title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School's success in indoor volleyball this season continued, as the Geckos ruled the boys varsity division of the 2013-2014 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

SIS bagged its third volleyball championship in the high school division this year after beating perennial rival Grace Christian Academy in last Friday's finals, 25-16, 25-21, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Last month, the Geckos also defeated the Eagles in the boys varsity finals of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Volleyball League, while SIS triumphed, too in the girls varsity division of the COPSSA competition after downing Mt. Carmel School.

The starters from the SIS team that took the MISO crown suited up for SIS Blue in the COPSSA league, which implemented a separate tournament for girls and boys high school divisions this year. SIS Blue, which was composed of Clay McCullough-Stearns,

Andrew Johnson, Tomy Choi, Chris and Allen Cepeda, William Fong, Alex Xie, and Min Suk Kim, went on to finish the double-round robin regular season with a 4-2 record and was pitted against sister team SIS White in the semifinals.

SIS Blue won in the all-Geckos semis, while GCA, which topped the regular season with its 5-1 record, eliminated Mt. Carmel School (1-5) last Thursday to arrange a rematch among the finalists in the MISO league.

The Geckos, who eked out a 27-25, 25-22 victory over the Eagles in the MISO tournament, asserted their might against GCA in the COPSSA finals behind the strong spikes and serves Johnson and McCullough-Stearns and the hustle plays and good setups of the other members of the team.



Saipan International School's Andrew Johnson, right, goes for a spike against Grace Christian Academy's Billy Hinson during their title game in the COPSSA volleyball league last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Johnson scored three straight aces off booming serves midway in the first set, while McCullough-Stearns let go of two spikes and blocked GCA twice to lift SIS to a 17-7 lead. GCA sued for time and went on to make a little headway, 15-21, winning the exchange at the net with Billy Hinson holding his ground against McCullough-Stearns and company.

However, SIS would not be denied, as McCullough-Stearns, Johnson, and Tommy Choi scored on spikes and the Geckos went on to wrap up the opening set after GCA's Josiah Trinidad attempted a toss, but the ball slipped away from his hands.

In the second set, SIS raced to a 9-1 lead, as McCullough-Stearns and Johnson were still at it and continued to get support from their teammates. However, GCA went on a 9-2 scoring run behind Hinson's strong game at the net and scrappy play from his teammates to stay in the game. The match was close from that point, but the Geckos played much steadier in the end to deny GCA's bid of extending the game.

SIS moved one point away from clinching the crown when GCA failed to return a Choi serve after three touches, 24-20. McCullough-Stearns tried to end the match, but his spike hit the net, giving the point to

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NMI Contractor, San Roque advance



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Natural Mystics' Josh Sablan tries a fancy pass against the defense of San Roque's Robert Guiang during the second quarter of their playoff game in the DL Corp. caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Bas-

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

NMI Contractor dethroned Adobo after posting a 69-58 win in the playoff opener in the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

NMI Contractor is now in the quarterfinals, joining early qualifiers Island Floral, San Antonio, Docomo Pacific, and Fong's Bakery, and San Roque, which also survived the first round of the playoffs after downing Natural Mystic in the second game, 64-56. Two more Round of 8 berths are left and they will be contested by Saipan Ice & Water, I Love Saipan, CJ Signs, and Chinatown.

The fifth quarterfinals berth went to NMI Contractor, which saved its best for last to oust Adobo. Holding a precarious 44-43 lead at the end of the third

canto, NMI Contractor scored 25 points in the fourth period en route to the 11-point win.

NMI Contractor nailed no more than 17 points in each of the first three quarters before pouring it all in the fourth to foil Adobo's comeback bid. Trevor Ogumoro, who converted only one field goal in the first three quarters, showed up for NMI Contractor in the pivotal fourth, connecting on two triples and scoring 8 markers. Perry Inos and Leo Galarse added 7 and 5, respectively, and NMI Contractor got at least one field goal apiece from three other players.

Adobo, which won the inaugural DL Corp. caging after beating RadioCom in the finals, 77-67, was held to 15 points in the playoff canto with only Ichitaro Faisao canning more than one field goal for the team in the fourth.

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Galarse, Guiab bag MVP awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KB Market's Leo Galarse and Blue Haus' Junar Guiab took the Finals MVP plums in the Open and Masters divisions of the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Basketball League.

Galarse was handed the coveted award for playing a crucial role in KB Market's 77-49 title win against the Hoopaholics last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. The KB Market swingman scored a team-high 16 points and anchored a fourth-quarter breakaway to help his team win the championship in convincing fashion.

The former Saipan Southern High School standout fired two triples in the first half of the finals and then ended the third quarter with a 3-point play to

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

KB Market's Leo Galarse goes for a fastbreak layup against the Hoopaholics' Jerry Diaz during the fourth quarter of their title match in the UFO Open caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.